

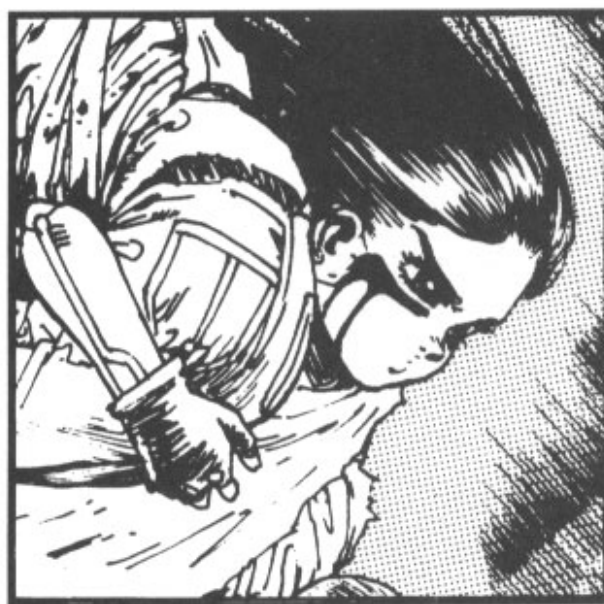
Battle Angel Alita Tears of an Angel



VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

TEARS OF AN ANGEL

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA GRAPHIC NOVEL



STORY AND ART BY
YUKITO KISHIRO

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STORY AND ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

Translation/Fred Burke & Sterling Bell and Matt Thorn

Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Wayne Truman

Cover Design/Viz Graphics

Editors/Satoru Fujii & Trish Ledoux

Assistant Editor/Toshifumi Yoshida

Executive Editor/Seiji Horibuchi

Publisher/Keizo Inoue

First published as *Gunnm* by Shueisha Inc. in Japan

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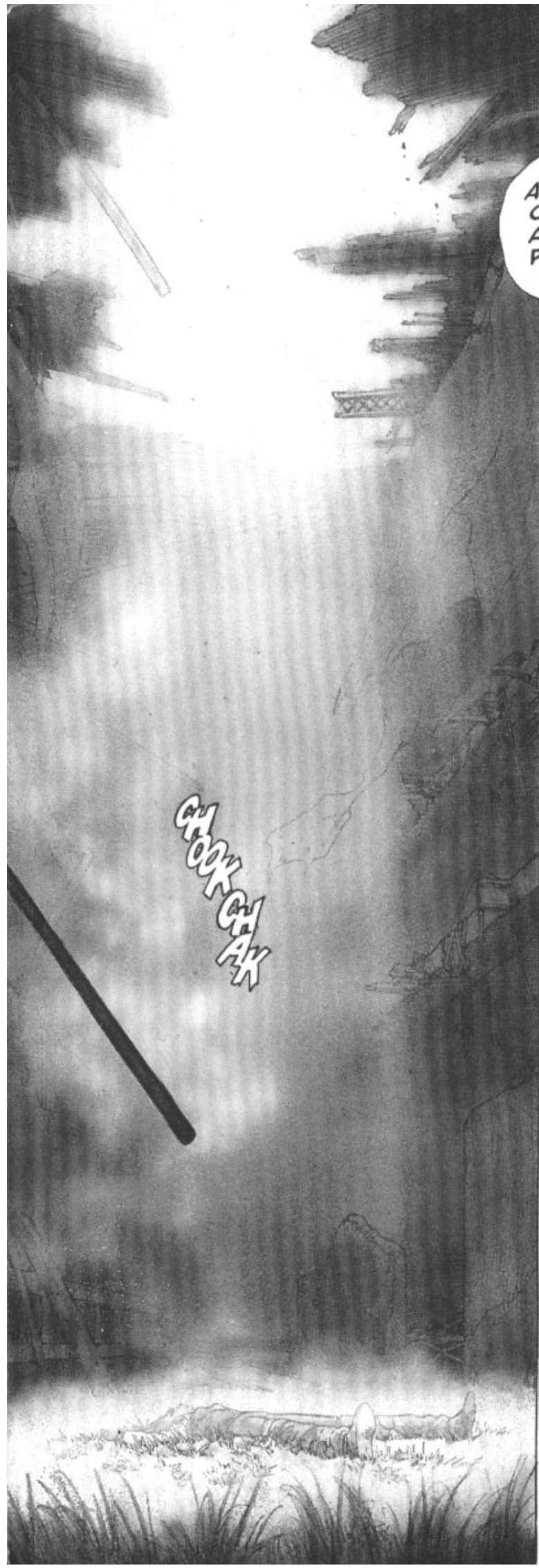
Printed in Canada

Published by Viz Communications Inc.
P.O. Box 77010 • San Francisco, CA 94107



OUT OF BLUE SKY

Struggle 1: Running Wild



AHH...THE
CLOUDS
ARE SO
PRETTY...

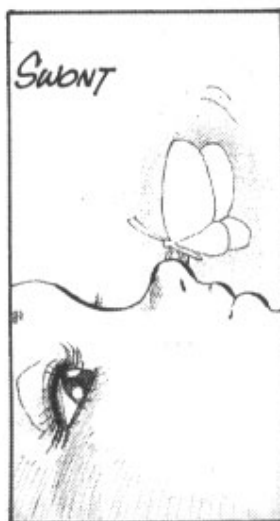
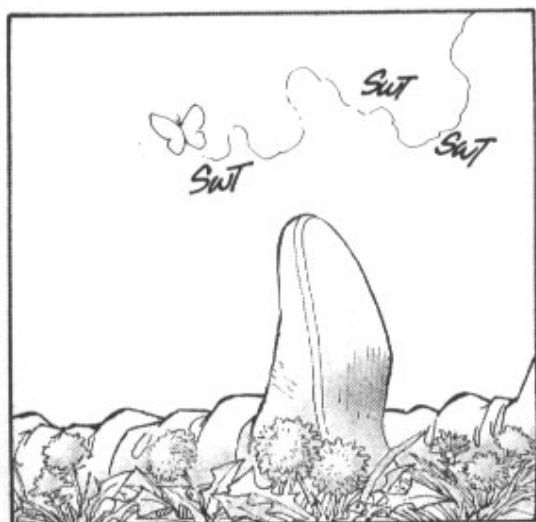
CHOK
CHAK

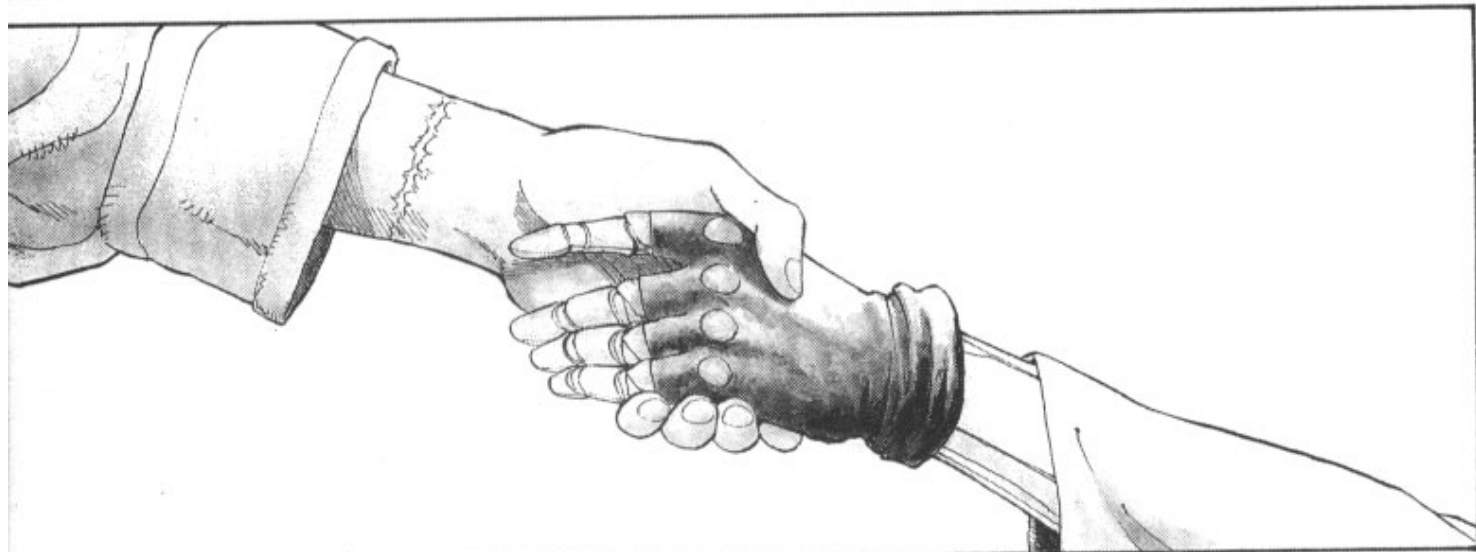
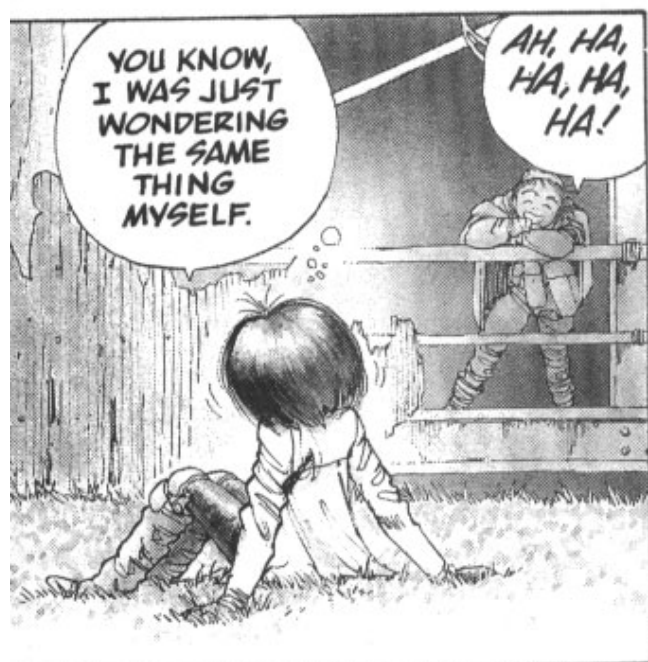


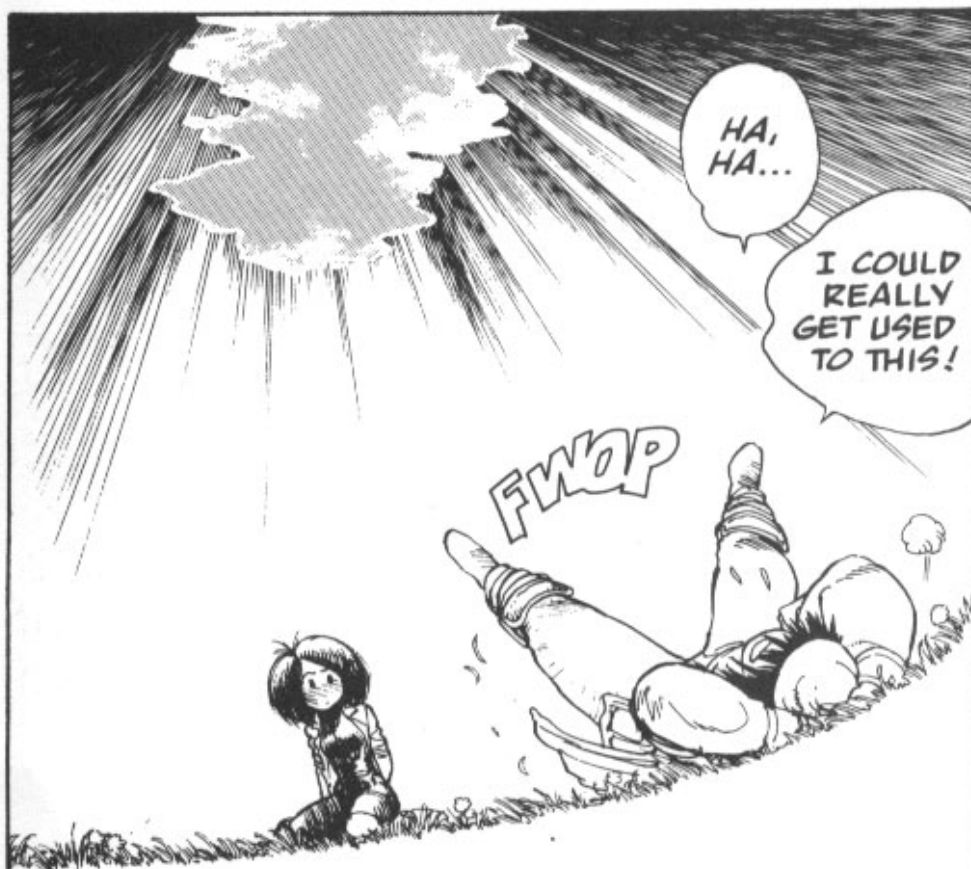
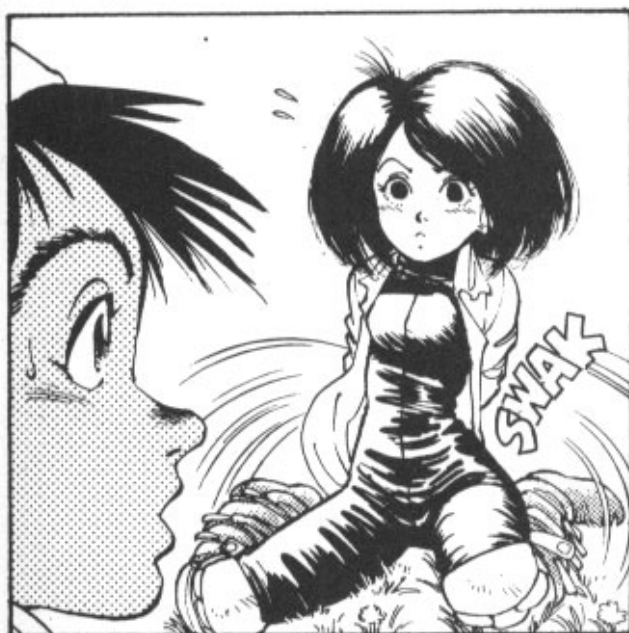
CLOUDS...

WHERE
IS THIS
AGAIN
?



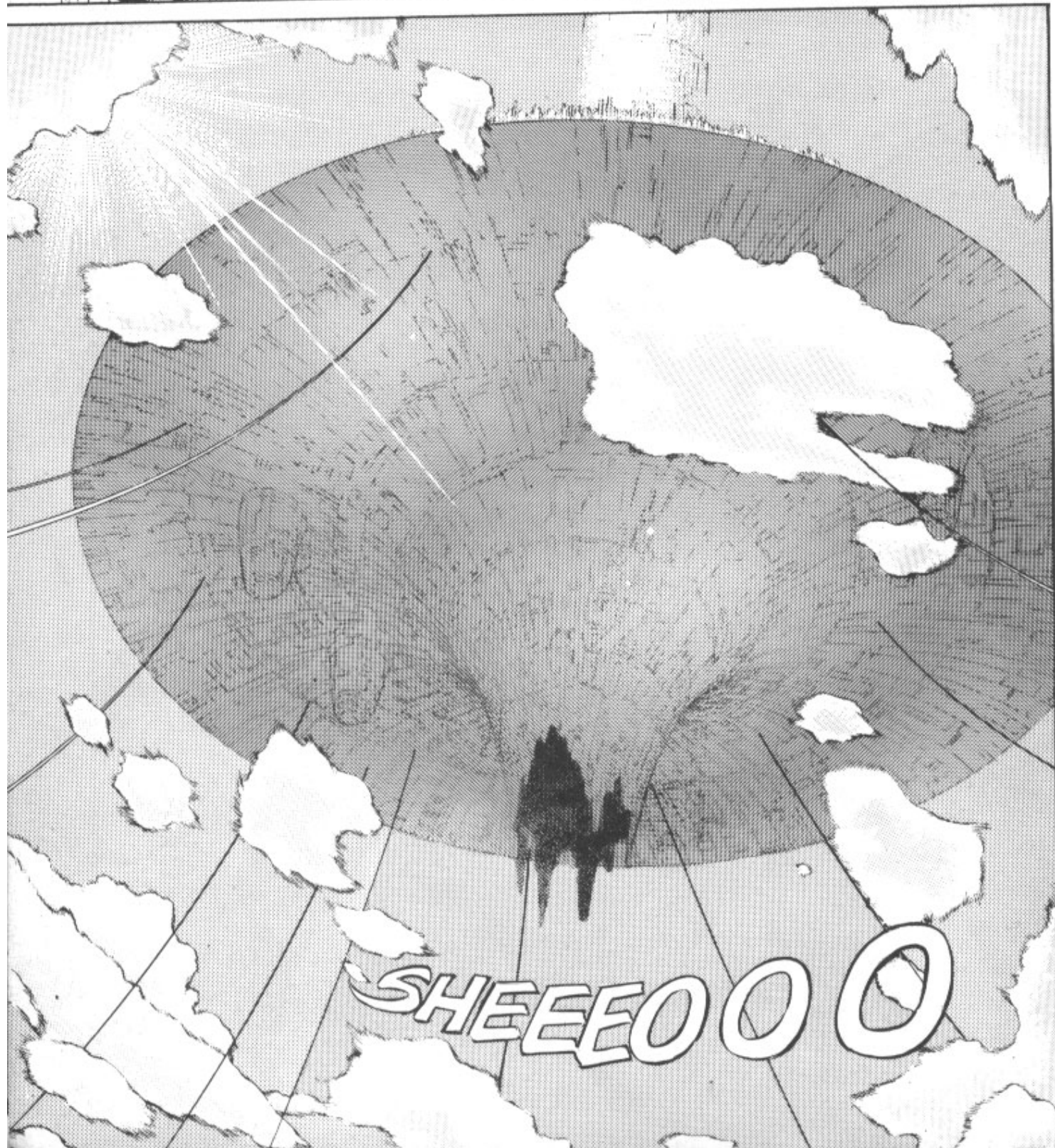






OVER
THIS WAY!
CHECK IT
OUT!

TIPHARES...
THE MIDAIR
CITY!





SOMETIMES
I JUST
SIT HERE
AND STARE...

...AND IF I
DO IT LONG ENOUGH,
I START TO
ALMOST BELIEVE
I COULD FLOAT
UP THERE, YOU
KNOW?



I BET LIFE
UP THERE
IS GREAT,
DON'T YOU?

I COME
HERE A LOT--
TO JUST
SIT AND
WATCH.
IT'S MY
FAVORITE...

I'VE BEEN
RUNNING
WILD IN THIS
OLD FACTORY
SINCE I WAS
JUST A KID.

HEE,
HEE.

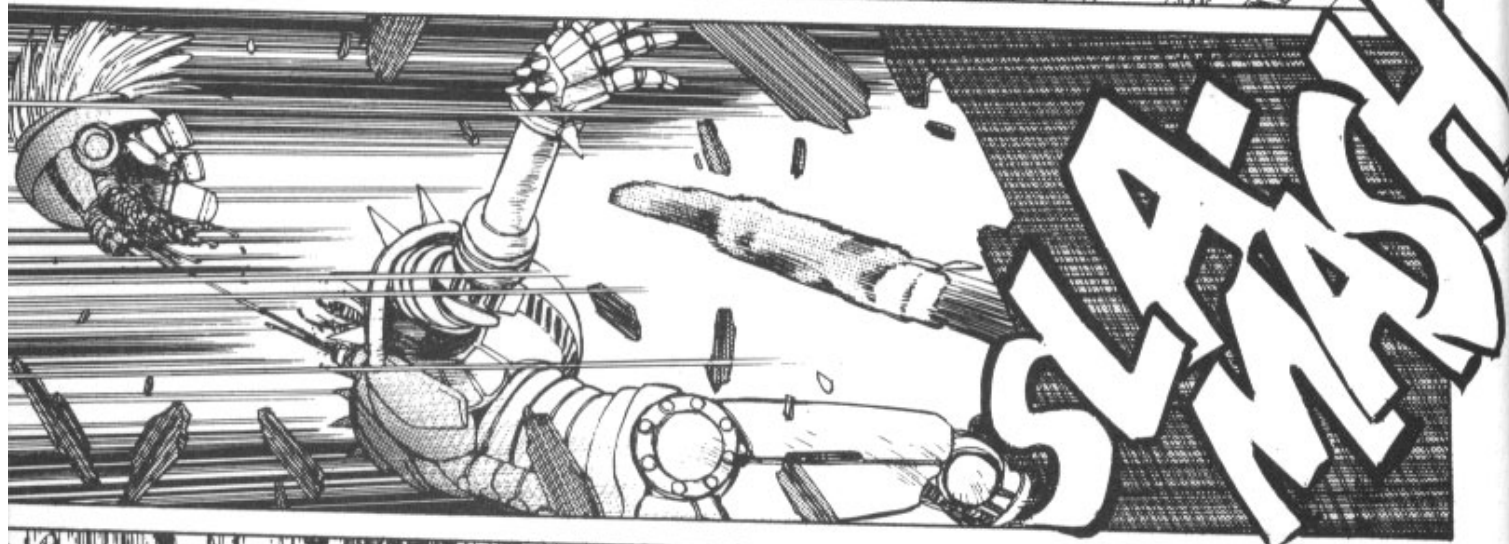
WHAT--
WHAT
IS IT
?!

JUST
LOOKING
AT YOU...
AT YOUR
FACE.

WHOA!
THAT AREA'S
WEAK THERE,
SO BE
CAREFUL.

AH...

...FAMILIAR--
I... FELL
FROM HERE...



YOUR
DOPE
SLINGING
HAS DONE
SO MUCH
DAMAGE...

...I
THINK IT'S
TIME YOU
GOT YOUR
SHARE
!

B-BOSS...

HMPH...
ANY
EXPERIMENT
REQUIRES
GUINEA
PIGS.

HERE--LET
ME SHOW YOU
THE **RESULT**
OF MY
RESEARCH.

TOKA TOKA

SLACHIK

B-BOSS, THAT
MEDICINE
ISN'T--!?

SKLONCH
GAA
HRR!



*LYCANTHROPAZINE: A DRUG WHICH CAUSES THE PSYCHE TO REGRESS, BRINGING OUT THE BESTIAL ATTACK INSTINCT. SO STRONG IS THE BELIEF THAT ONE HAS BECOME A BEAST, THAT THE BODY CAN TRANSFORM, BRINGING OUT LATENT CAPABILITIES TO THEIR LIMITS.



W-WEREWOLF!?

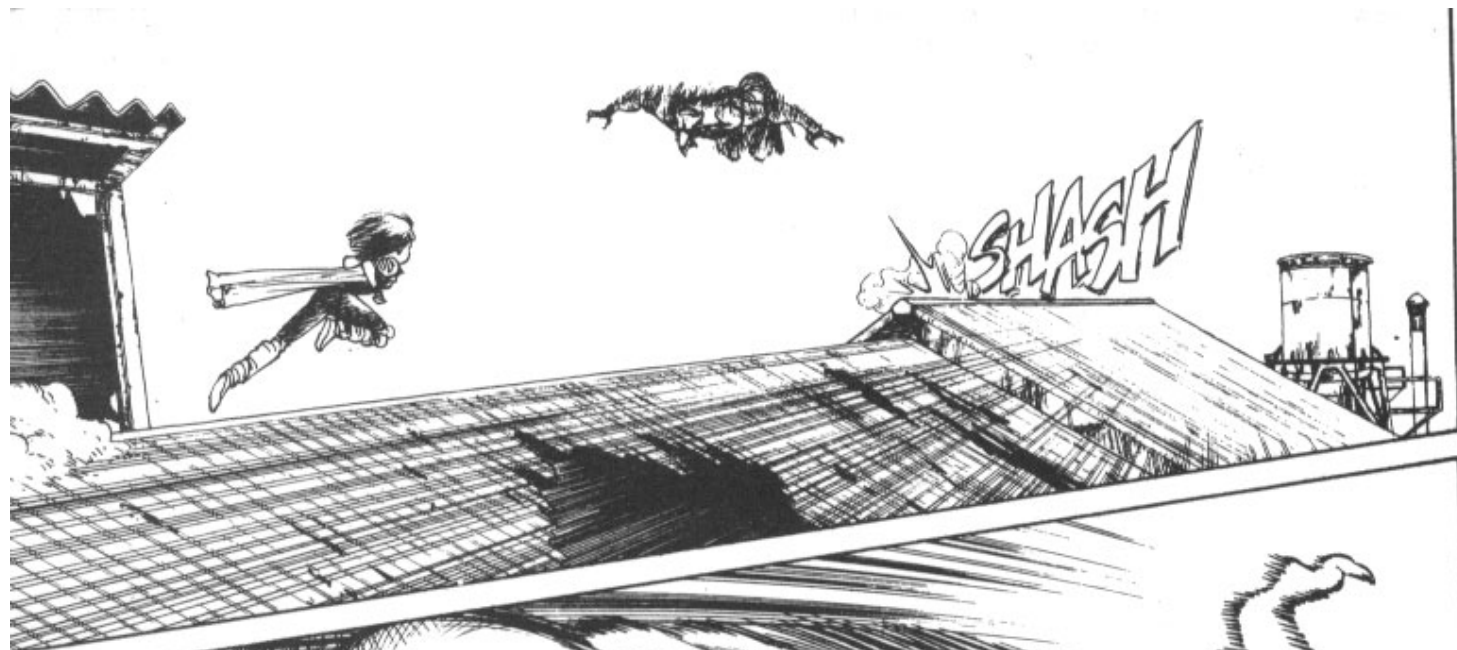


TING!



YOU
THINK YOU
CAN GET
AWAY!?

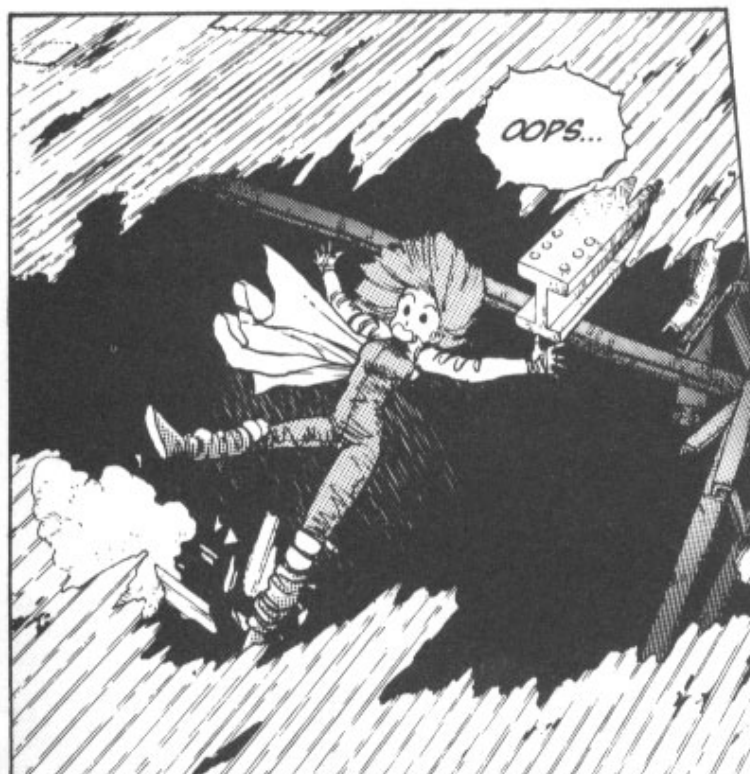






HMPH!
SOME
WEREWOLF...

...AN EASY
VICTORY.

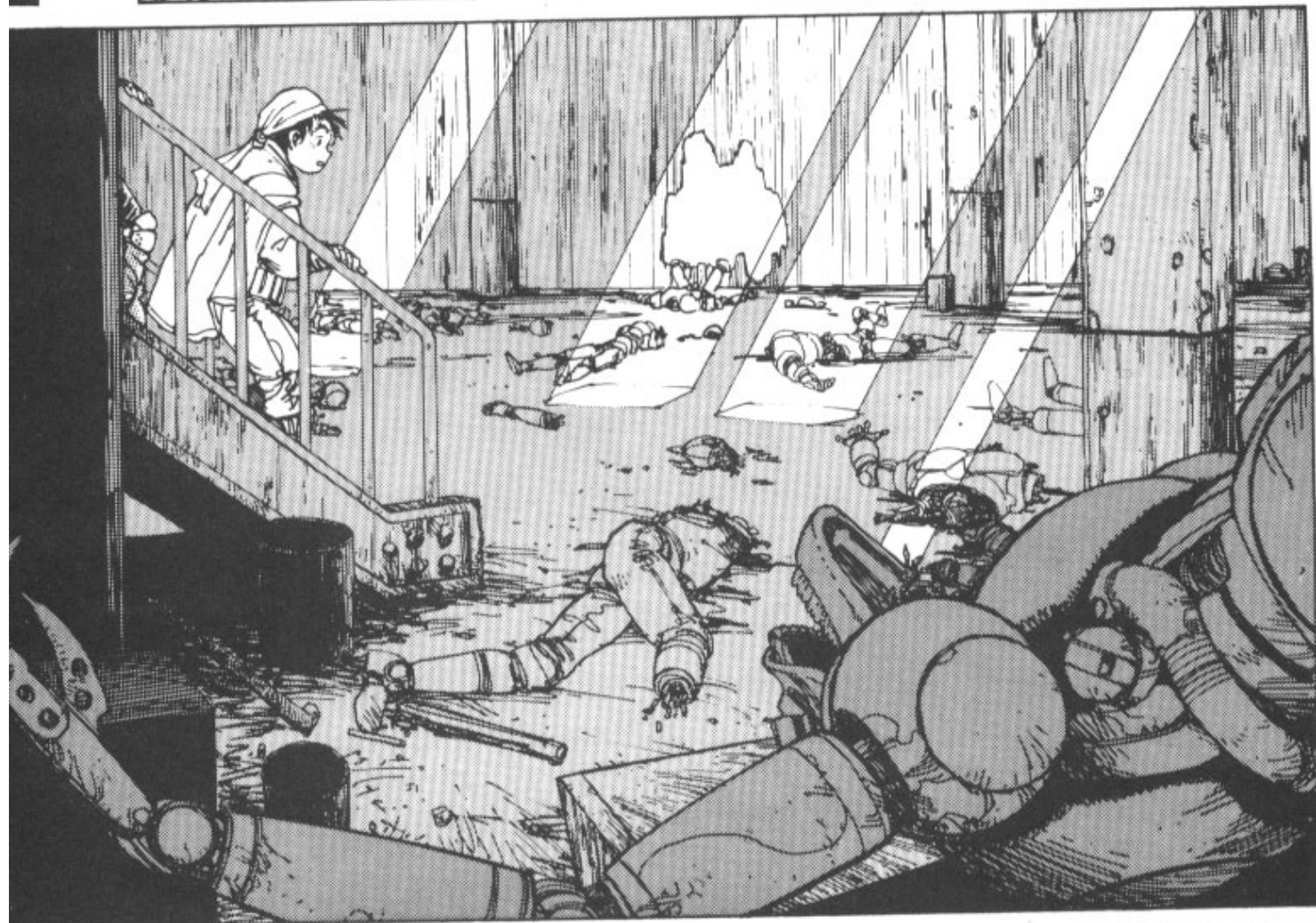


TUT--THAT
WAS REALLY
CARELESS.

I
WONDER
IF I'M
IN A
SLUMP.

THIS IS
INCREDIBLE
!

HEY! COME
CHECK THIS
OUT!

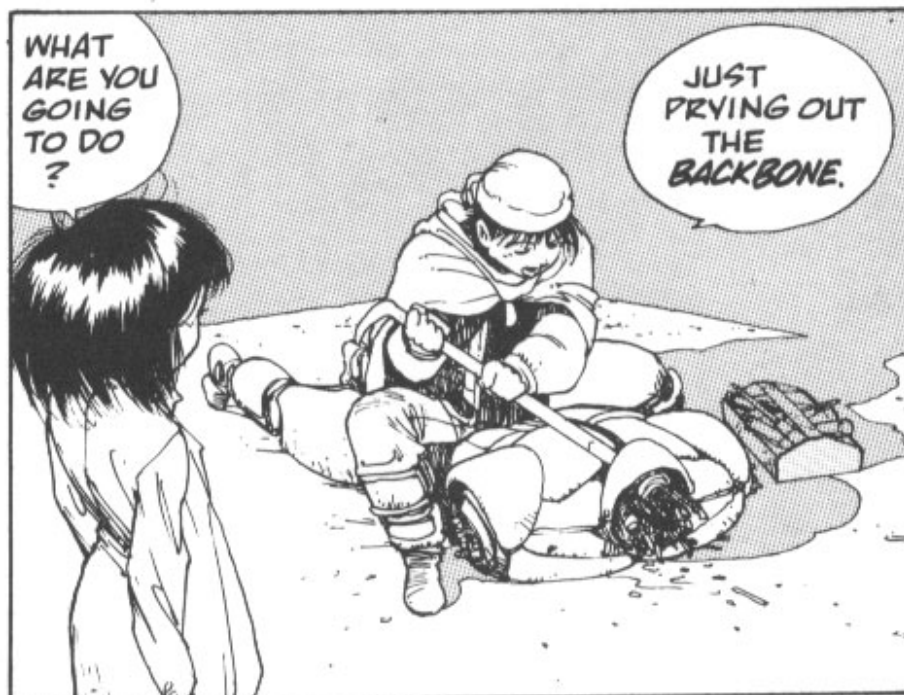


THIS IS
REALLY
SOMETHING...
THEY'RE ALL
DEAD.

IT'S
LIKE A
DINOSAUR
WENT WILD
DOWN
HERE.

A
DINOSAUR...
?



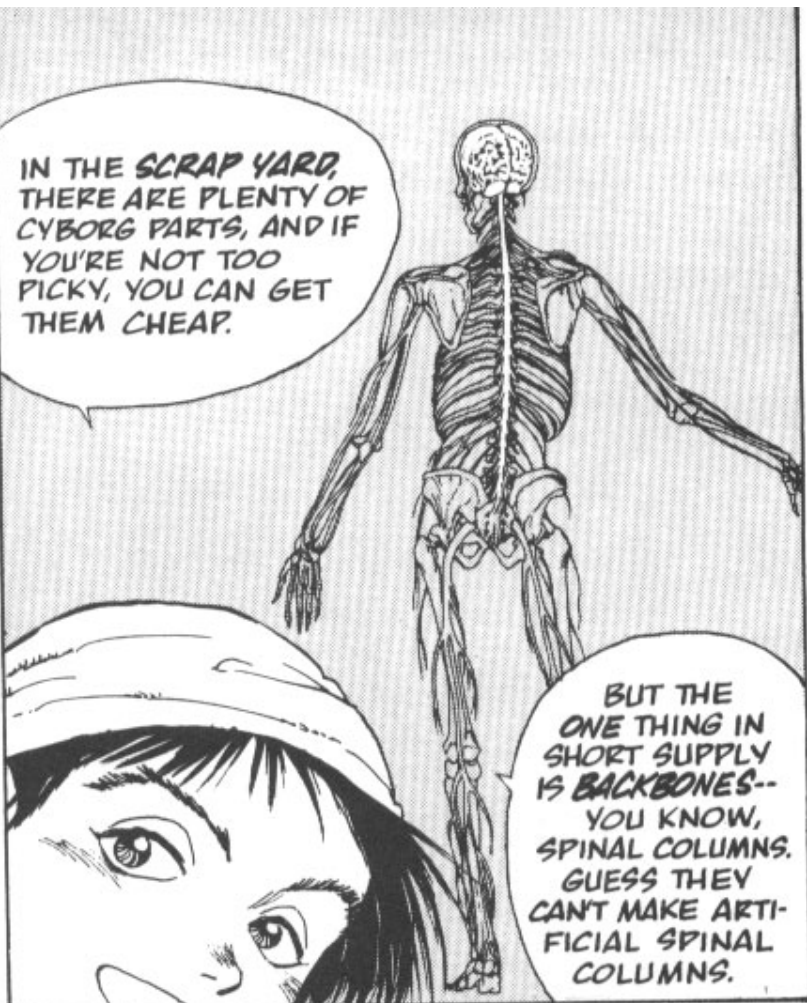




BACKBONE
!?

THAT'S
RIGHT. IT'LL
BRING IN
A GOOD
PRICE AT
THE PARTS
MARKET.

OUCH--
TIGHT
FIT!



IN THE *SCRAP YARD*,
THERE ARE PLENTY OF
CYBORG PARTS, AND IF
YOU'RE NOT TOO
PICKY, YOU CAN GET
THEM CHEAP.

BUT THE
ONE THING IN
SHORT SUPPLY
IS *BACKBONES*--
YOU KNOW,
SPINAL COLUMNS.
GUESS THEY
CAN'T MAKE ARTI-
FICIAL SPINAL
COLUMNS.



YOU CAN'T DO
THAT! IT'S LIKE
STEALING!

WH-WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN--
CAN'T
!?

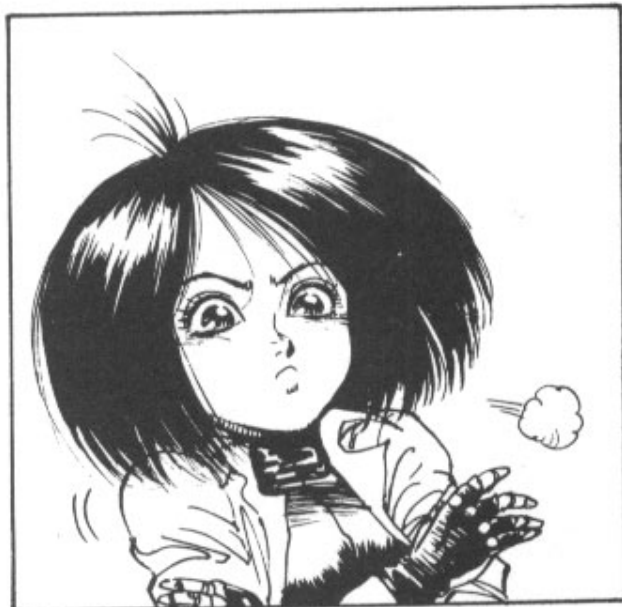


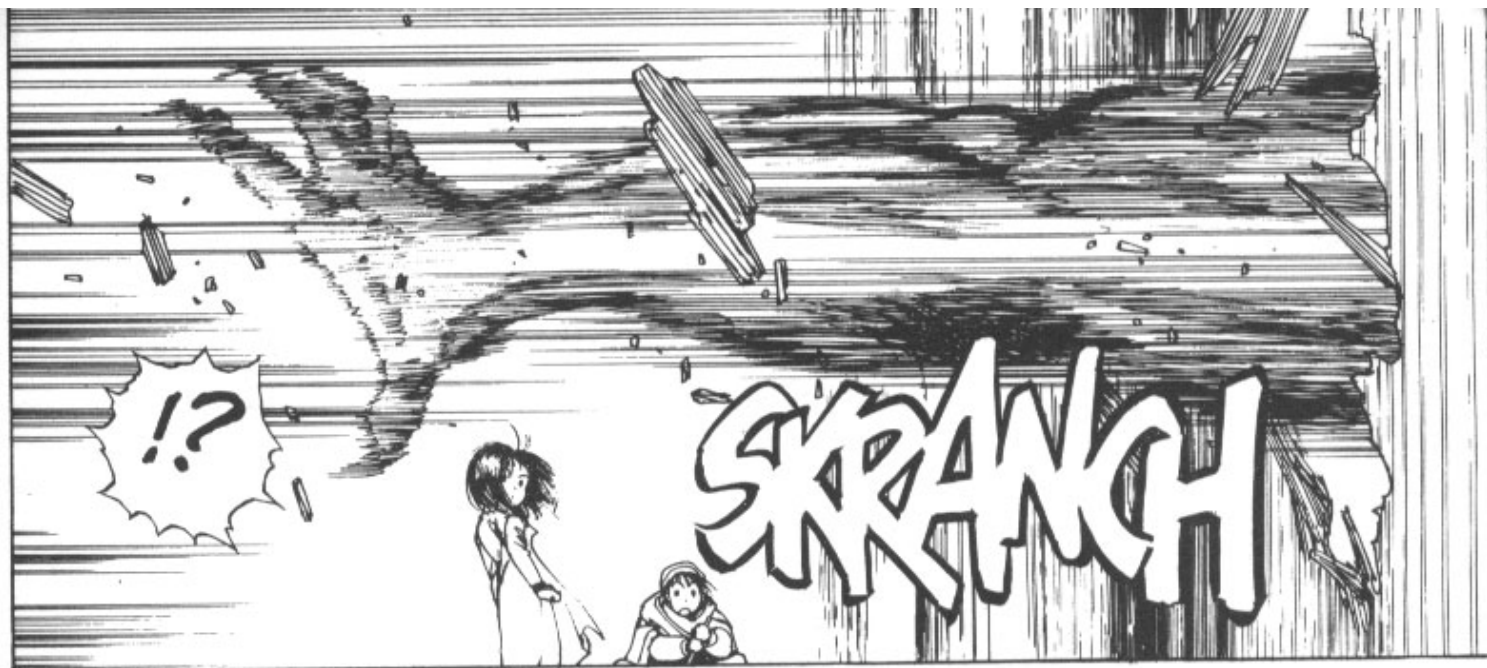
IT'S JUST
LYING HERE,
RIGHT? SAME
AS ONE THAT'S
BEEN THROWN
AWAY! NO
SIN.



I'VE GOT TO
MAKE MY WAY--
YOU THINK I CAN
WORRY ABOUT
APPEARANCES
!?

TOINK
TOINK













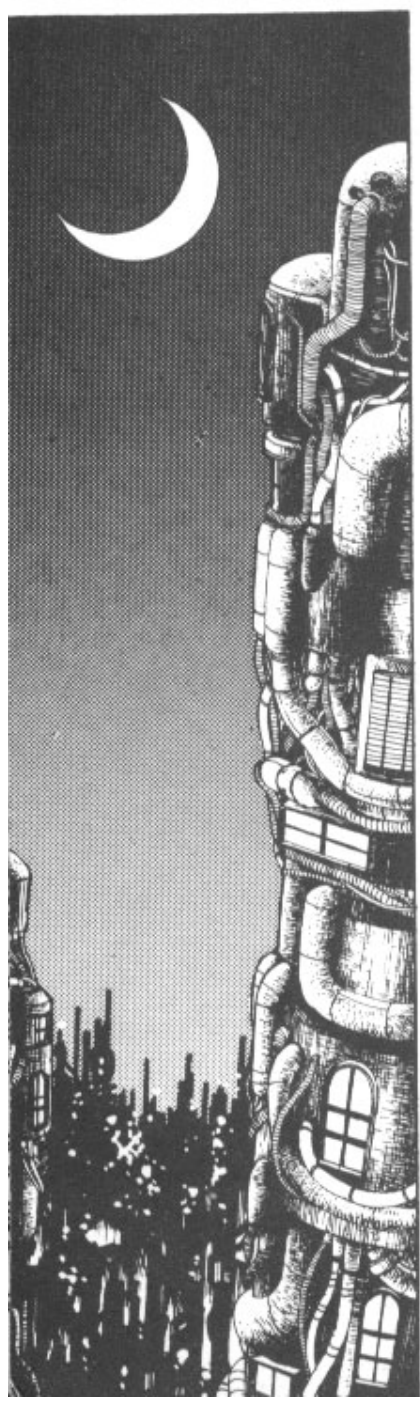


HUGO,
HUH?

I
WONDER
IF WE'LL
MEET
AGAIN.



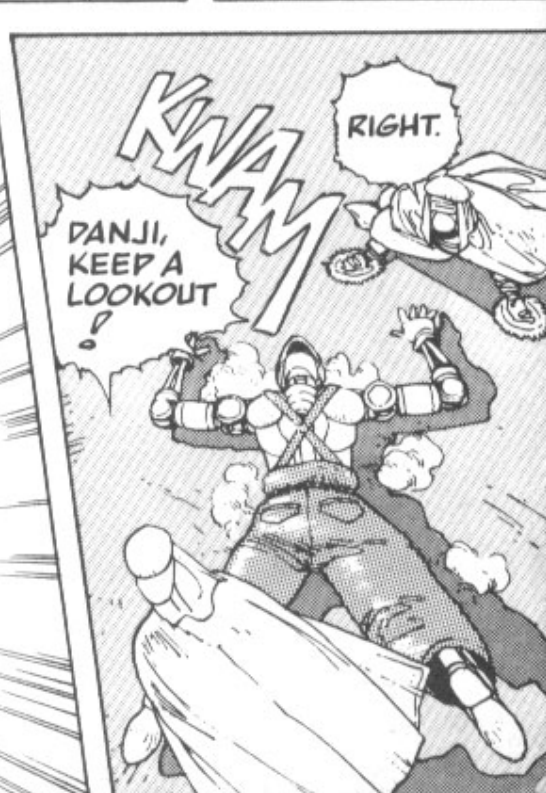
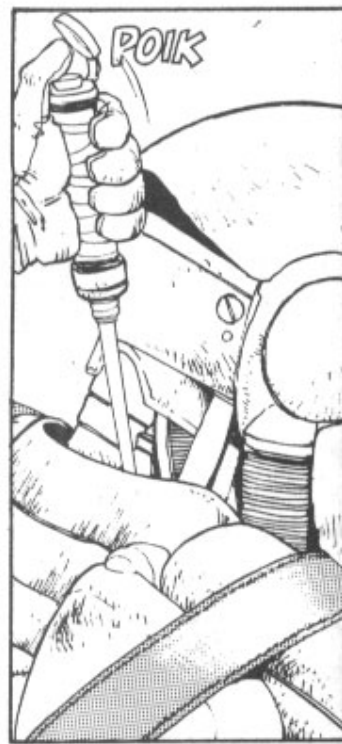
HEE
HEE

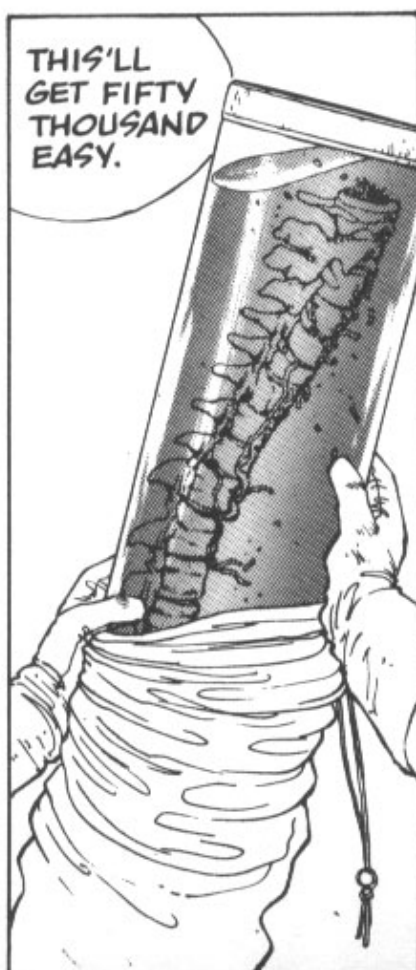
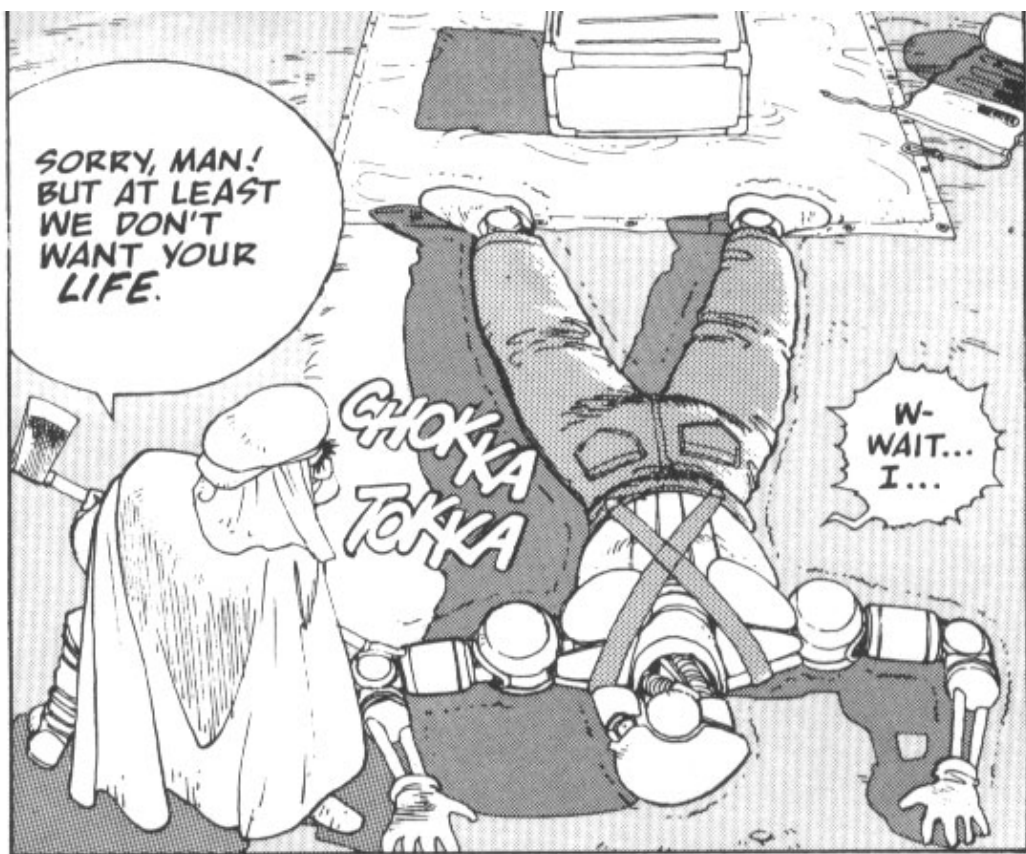


SIR, WE'LL
CHANGE
YOUR OIL
FOR YOU.

TOP-GRADE
SILICON
OIL WITH
TEFLON.

AND WE'LL
THROW IN A
BODY WAX
FOR FREE.





**BRING-
A-DING**

CALLING

HELLO,
IDO'S
REPAIR
SHOP.

THERE'S A
PERSON DYING
IN AN ALLEY
IN BLOCK 26.
SAVE HIM!

SLAM

IT ALWAYS
FEELS GOOD
AFTER YOU'VE
HELPED SAVE
SOMEONE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
BABBLING
ABOUT,
YOU LOUSY
VILLAIN?!

HEH,
HEH,
HEH...

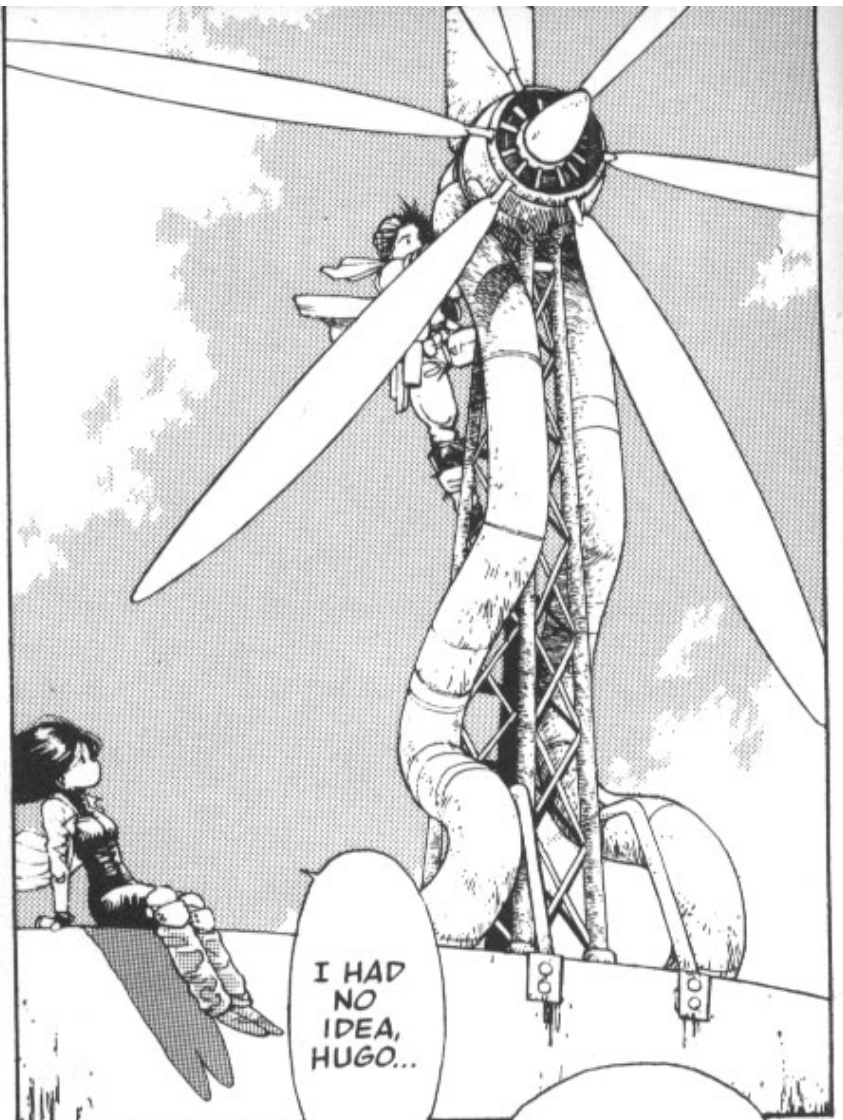
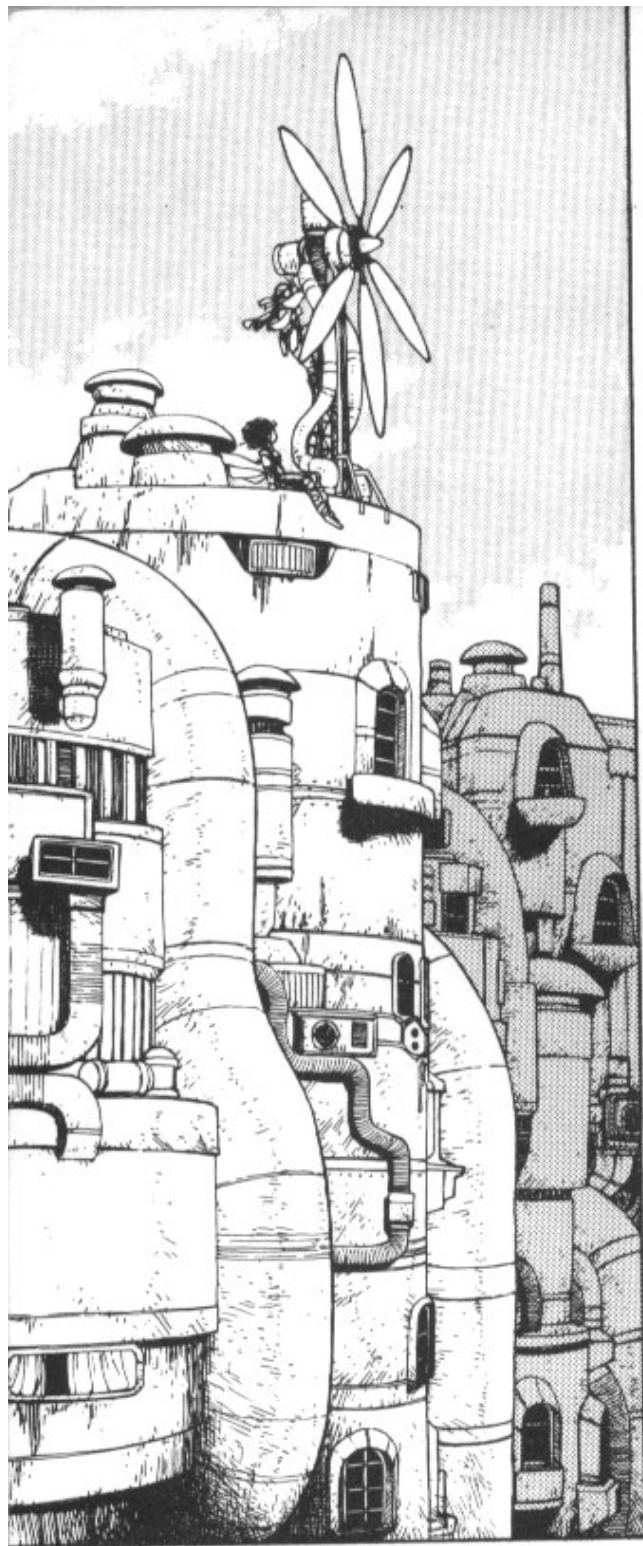
AH,
HA,
HA,
HA.



IRON MAIDEN

Struggle 2: Awakening Heart





I HAD
NO
IDEA,
HUGO...

...THAT YOU
CAME TO
TUNE UP OUR
WINDMILL
EVERY
MONTH!

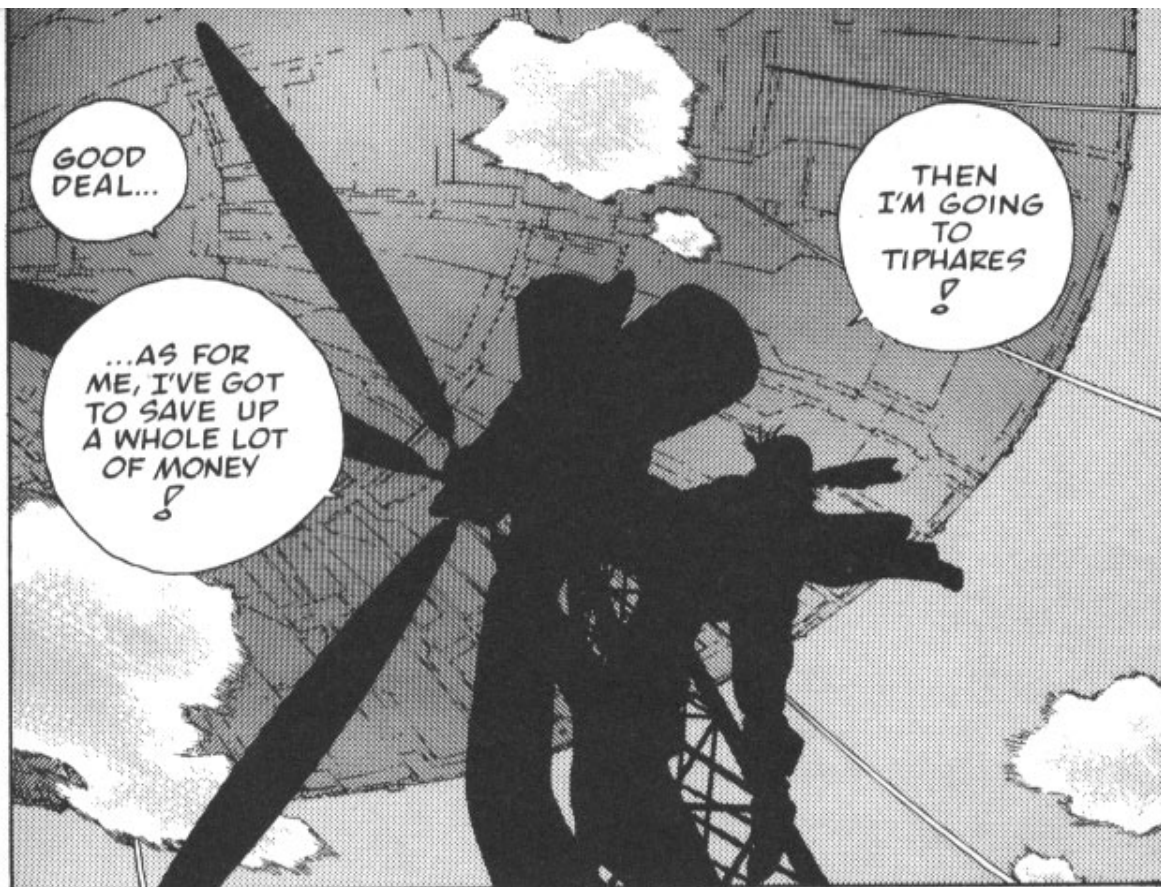


YEAH, WELL--
BEFORE THE
SUN'S DOWN I'VE
GOT TO HIT UP
THIRTY MORE
COMPLEXES.

IT'S A JOB.
SO, ARE YOU
LIVING HERE AT
THE DOCTOR'S
PLACE?

YEP
!





GOOD
DEAL...

...AS FOR
ME, I'VE GOT
TO SAVE UP
A WHOLE LOT
OF MONEY
!

THEN
I'M GOING
TO
TIPHARES
!



AHH...
I WISH
THIS WOULD
NEVER
END...

...I COULD
SIT HERE
FOREVER
LISTENING
TO HUGO'S
VOICE...



...AND
HIS EYES--
ALWAYS
LOOKING
AT THE
SKY...



...I
ENVY
HIM.



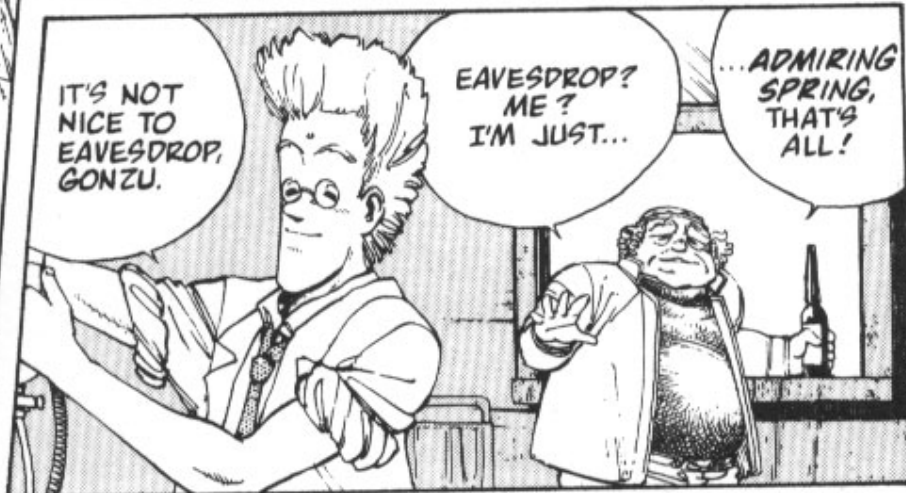
SUCH A
DISTANCE
BETWEEN US.
IF ONLY I
COULD SHARE
HIS WORLD!



HO,
HO,
HO!



LOOKS LIKE
SPRING HAS
COME FOR
ALITA, DOESN'T
IT?



IT'S NOT
NICE TO
EAVESDROP,
GONZU.

EAVESDROP?
ME?
I'M JUST...

...ADMIRING
SPRING,
THAT'S
ALL!

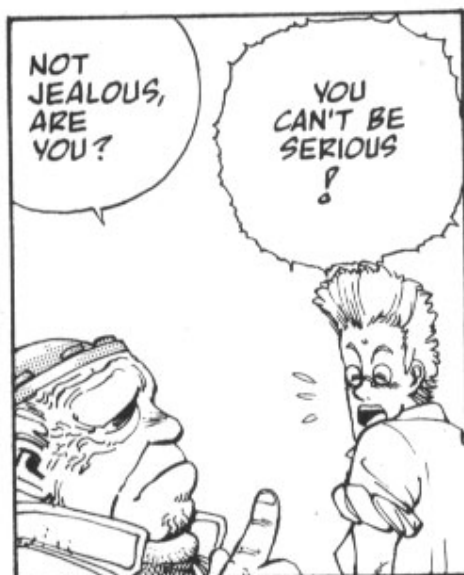


ALITA SEEMS
SO... SO
SPARKLING
RECENTLY.

AND IF
THIS IS THE
REASON,
WELL-- THAT'S
GREAT!

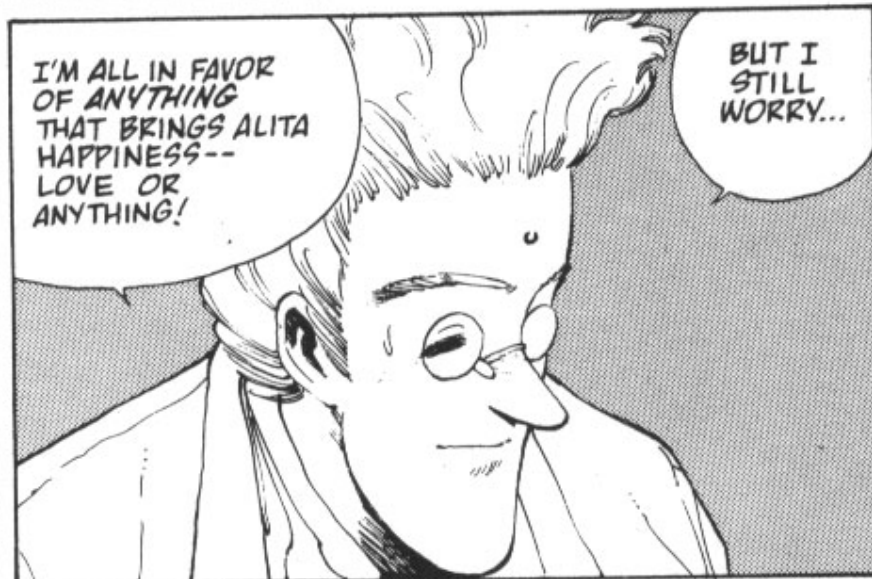


BUT YOU
KNOW,
GONZU... I'M
WORRIED.



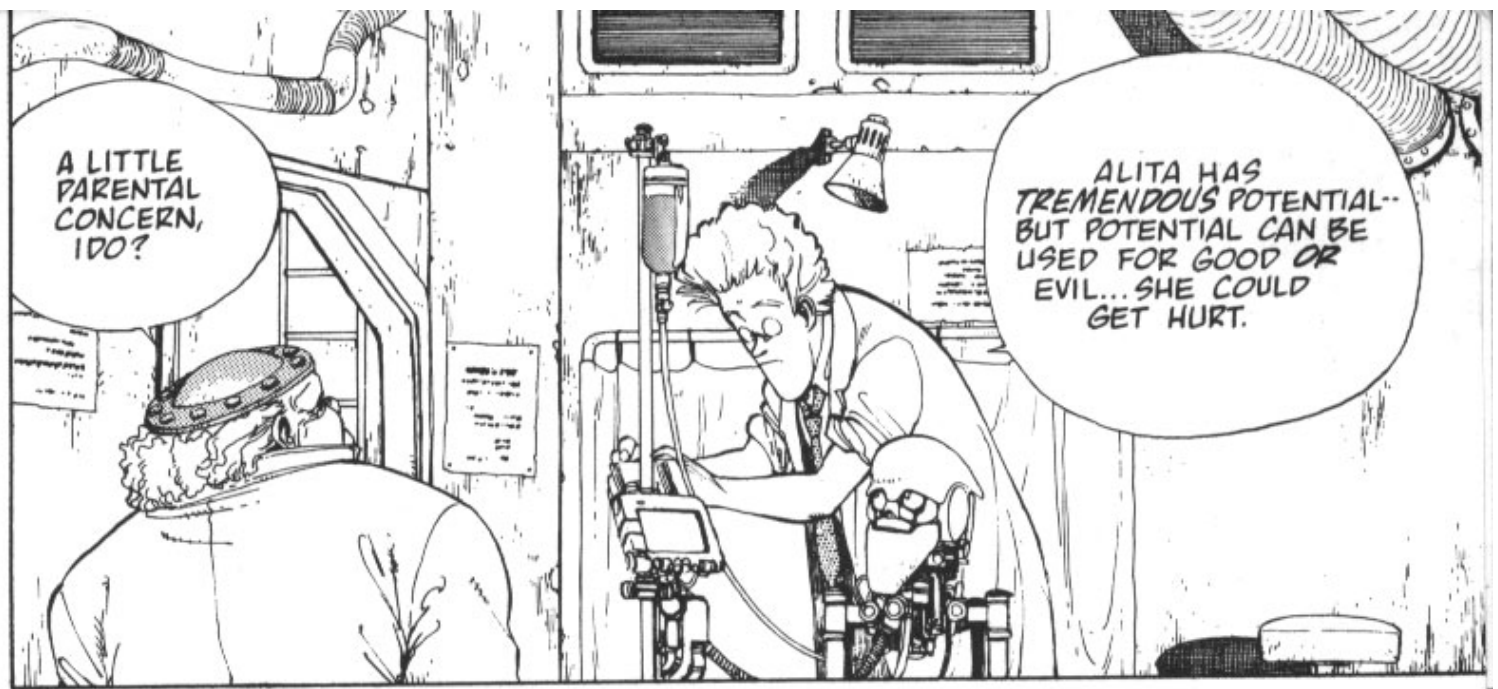
NOT
JEALOUS,
ARE
YOU?

YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS
!



I'M ALL IN FAVOR
OF ANYTHING
THAT BRINGS ALITA
HAPPINESS--
LOVE OR
ANYTHING!

BUT I
STILL
WORRY...

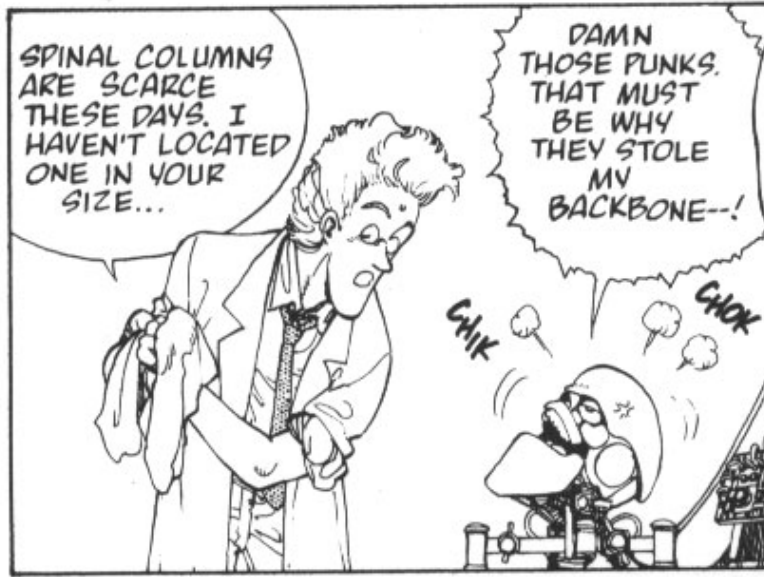


A LITTLE PARENTAL CONCERN, IDO?

ALITA HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL-- BUT POTENTIAL CAN BE USED FOR GOOD OR EVIL... SHE COULD GET HURT.



DOC, WILL I BE OPERABLE SOON?



SPINAL COLUMNS ARE SCARCE THESE DAYS. I HAVEN'T LOCATED ONE IN YOUR SIZE...

DAMN THOSE PUNKS. THAT MUST BE WHY THEY STOLE MY BACKBONE--!

CHIK

CHOK



SPINAL COLUMN THEFT, EH? IT'S THE TREND THESE DAYS, ISN'T IT?



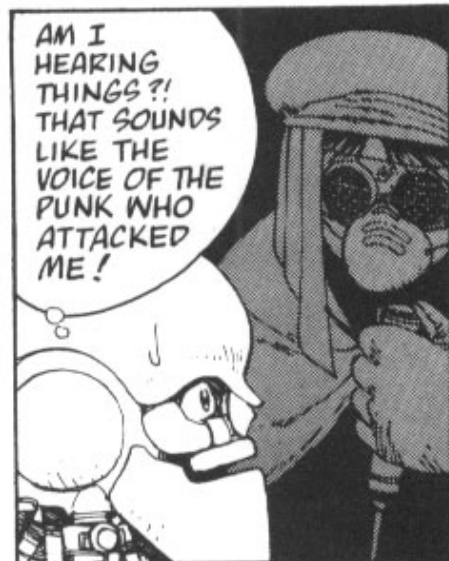
BLACK MARKET DEMAND IS UP FOR ALL ILLEGAL PARTS...

...AND THE FACTORY DOESN'T KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE SALE OF CYBORG PARTS, SO EVERYONE'S CASHING IN.

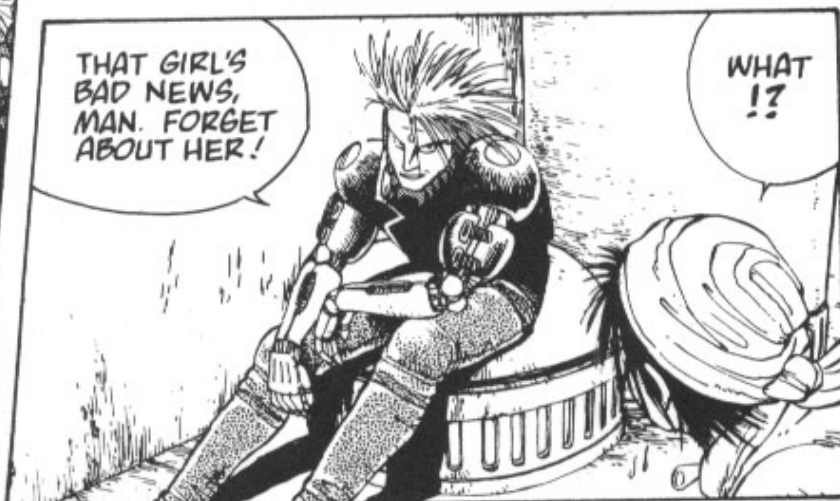


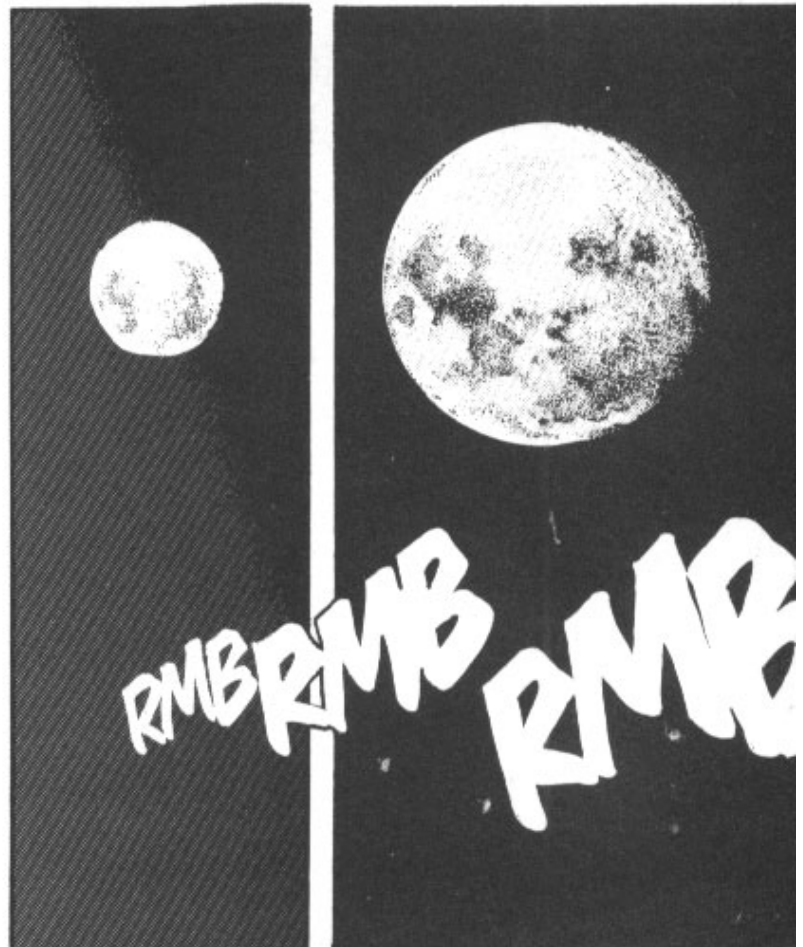
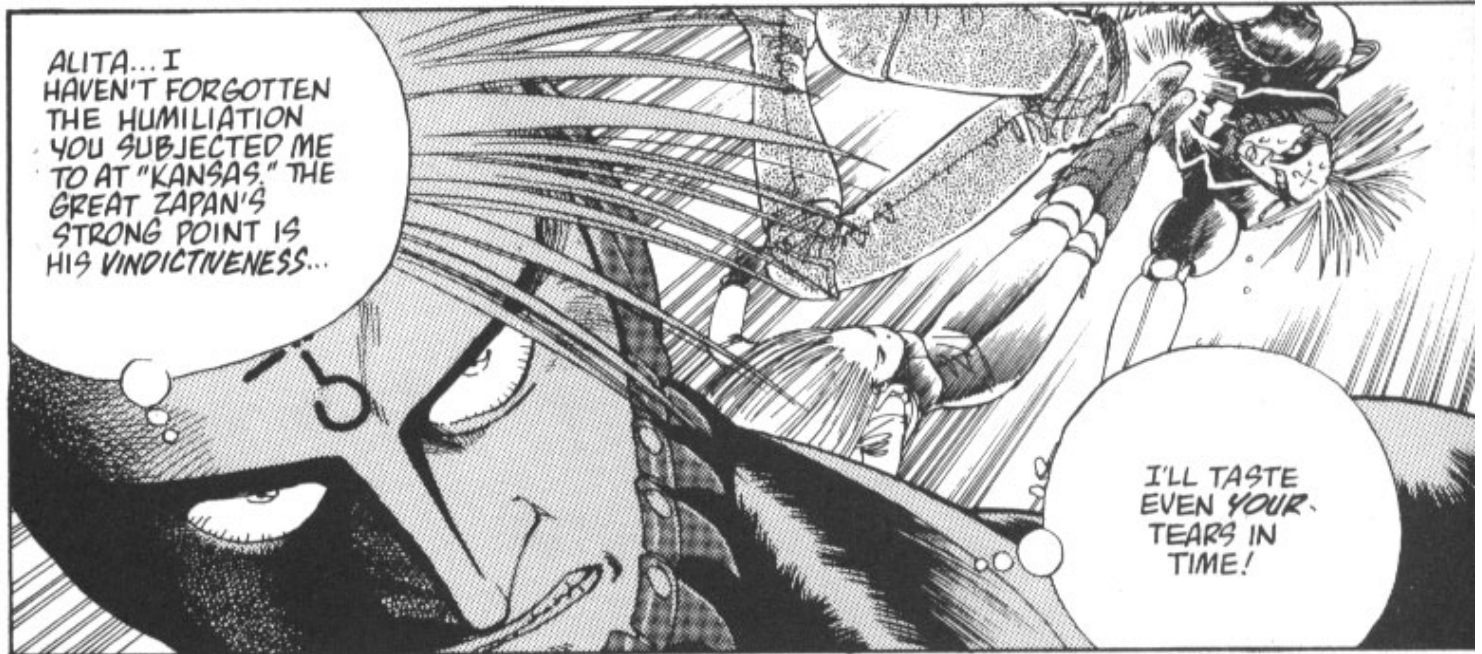
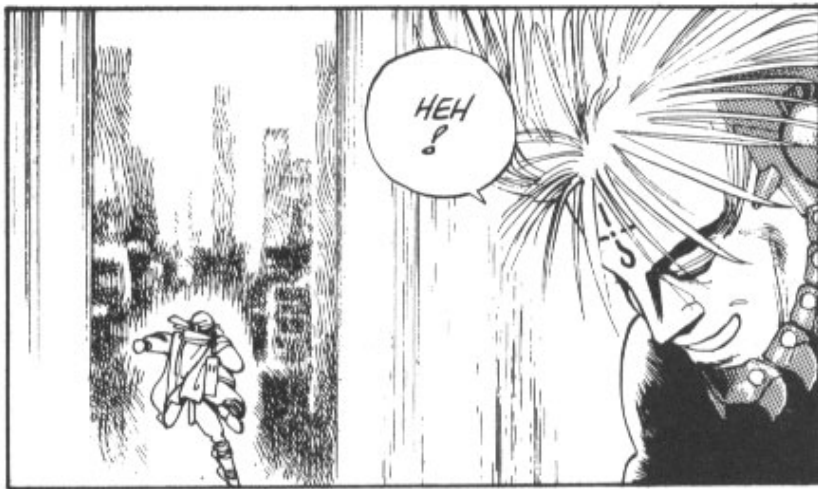
YOUR POWER GENERATOR'S ALL SET, DOC IDO!

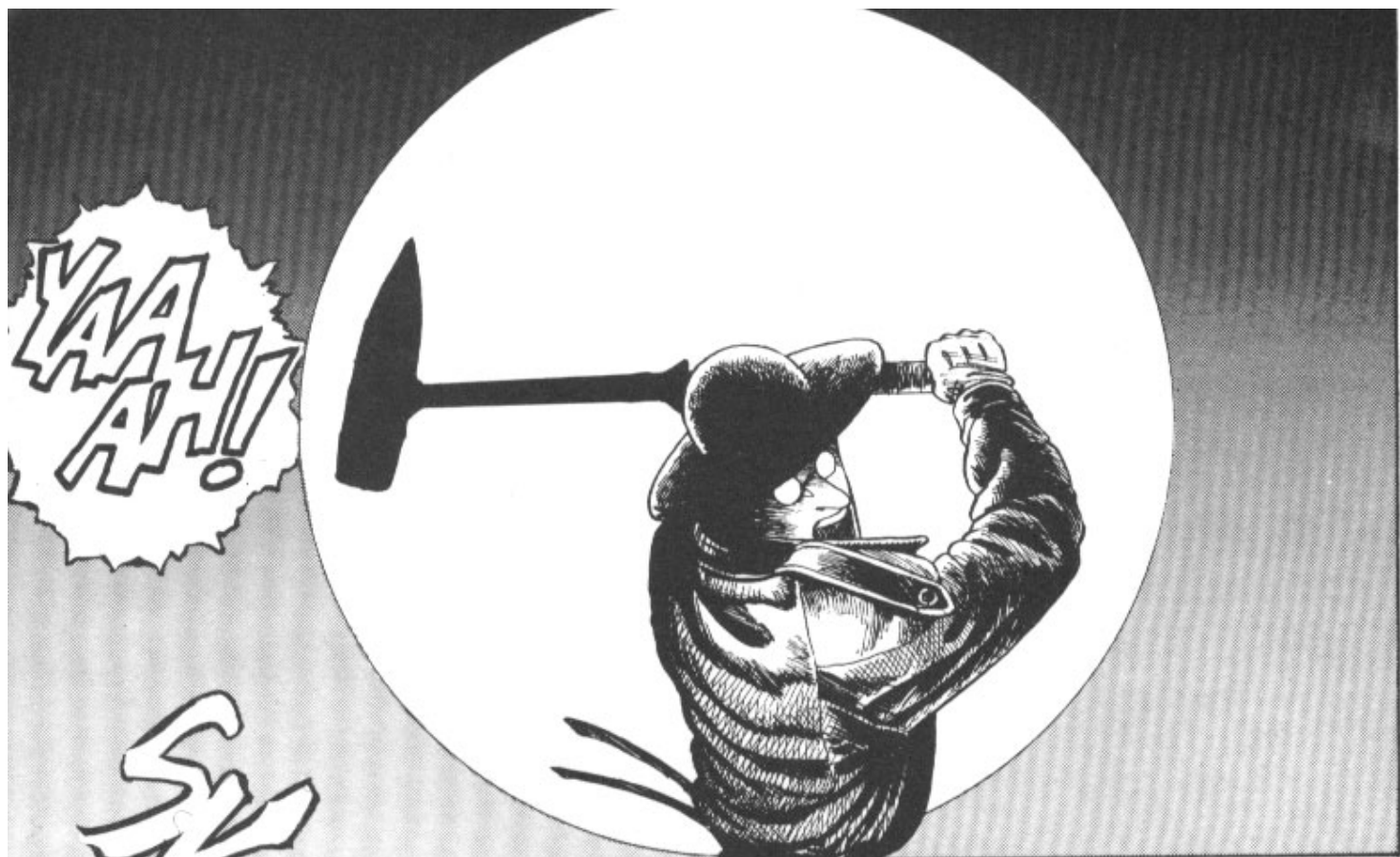
GREAT, HUGO!



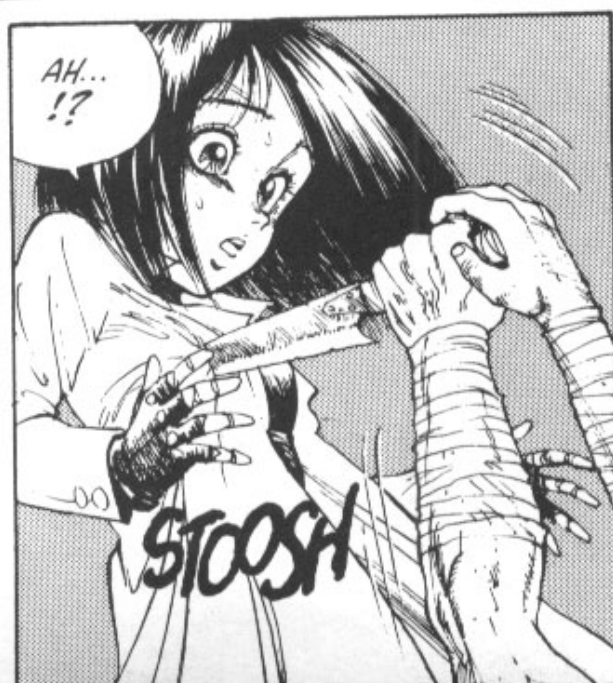


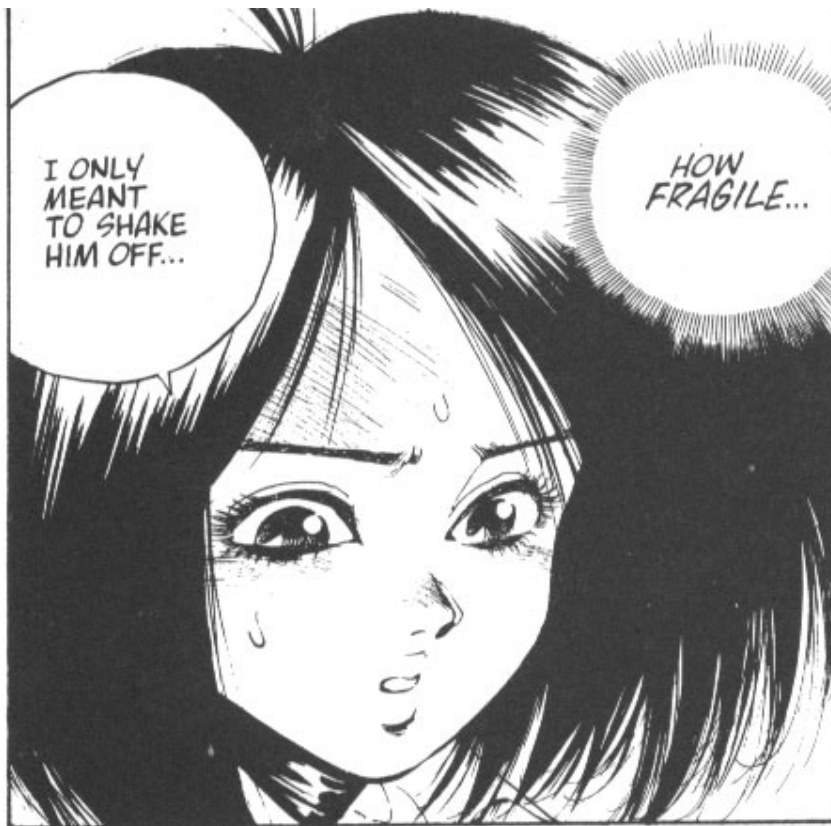












I ONLY
MEANT
TO SHAKE
HIM OFF...

HOW
FRAGILE...

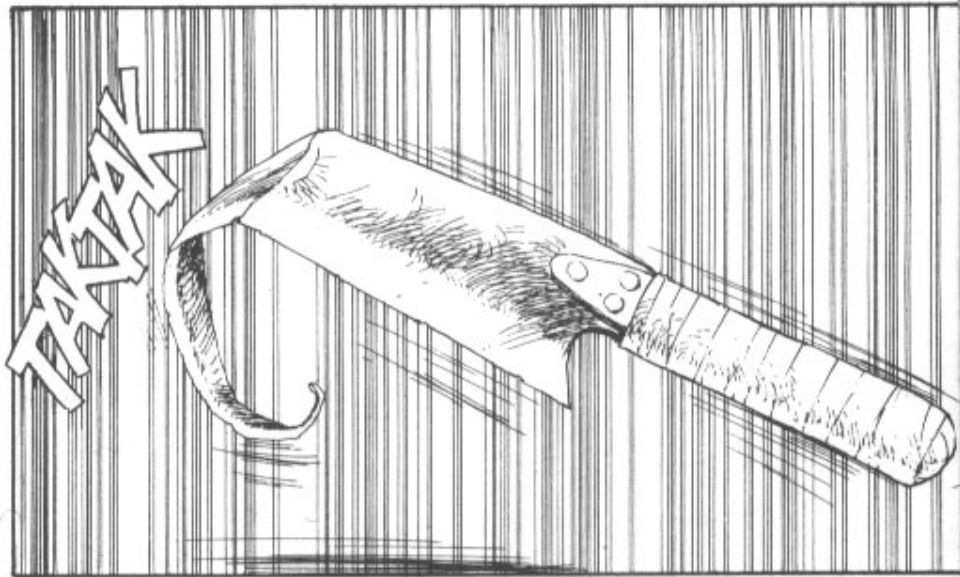


HIIIAAAA

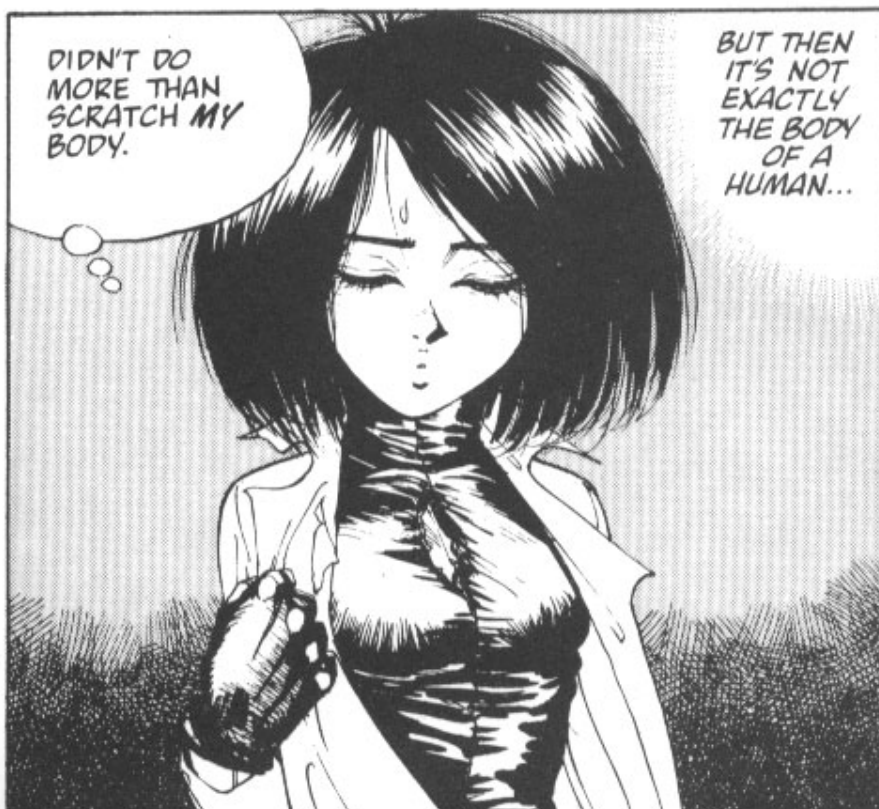
TUNK



SKOOSH



TAKTAK



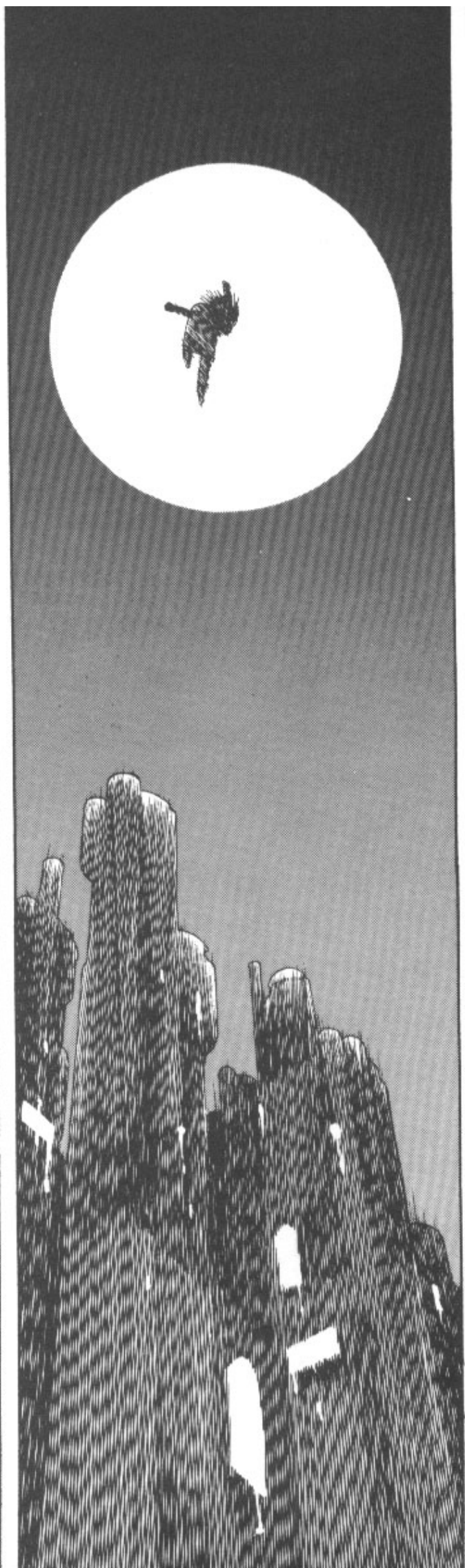
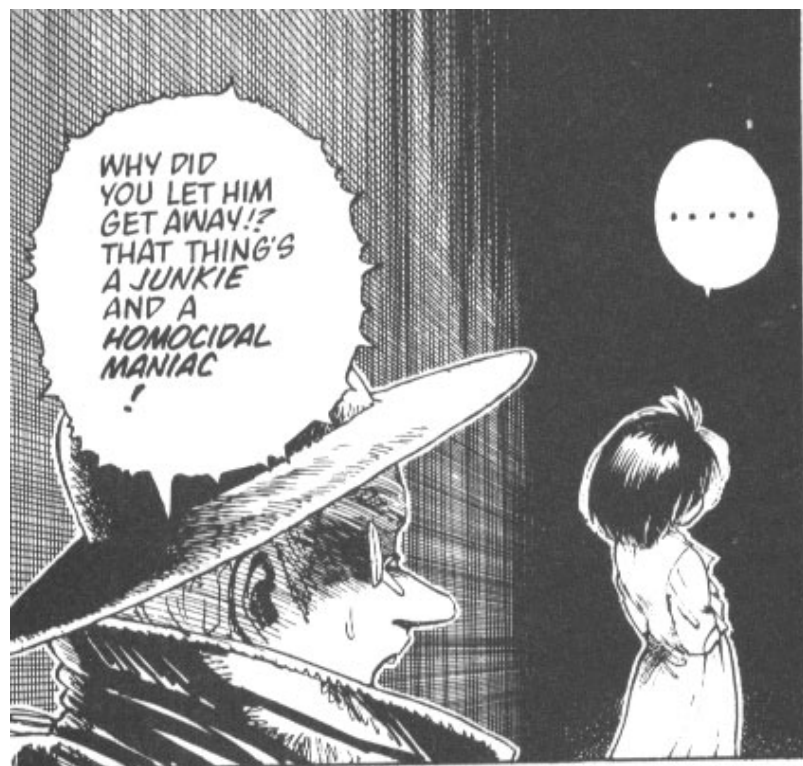
DIDN'T DO
MORE THAN
SCRATCH MY
BODY.

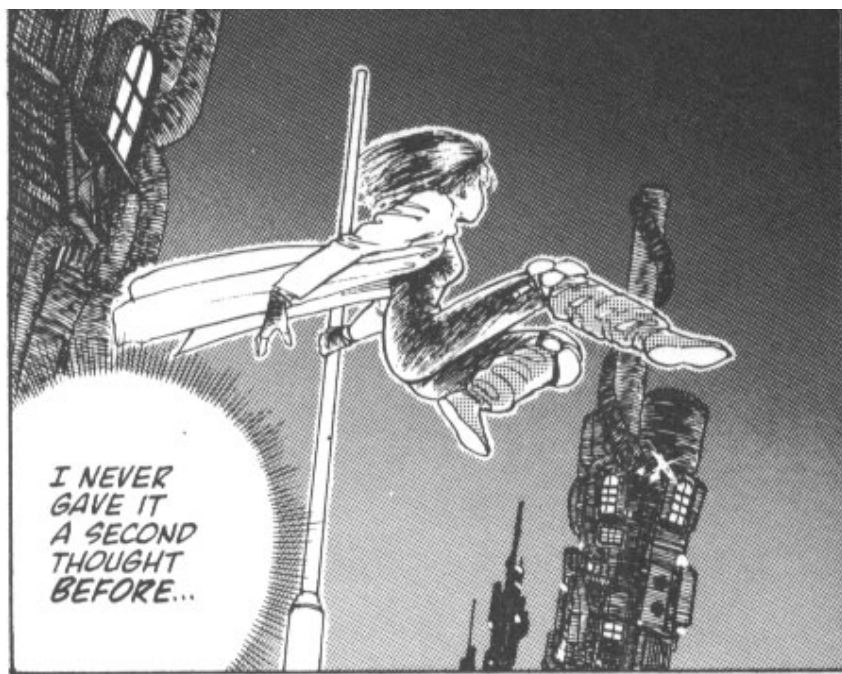
BUT THEN
IT'S NOT
EXACTLY
THE BODY
OF A
HUMAN...



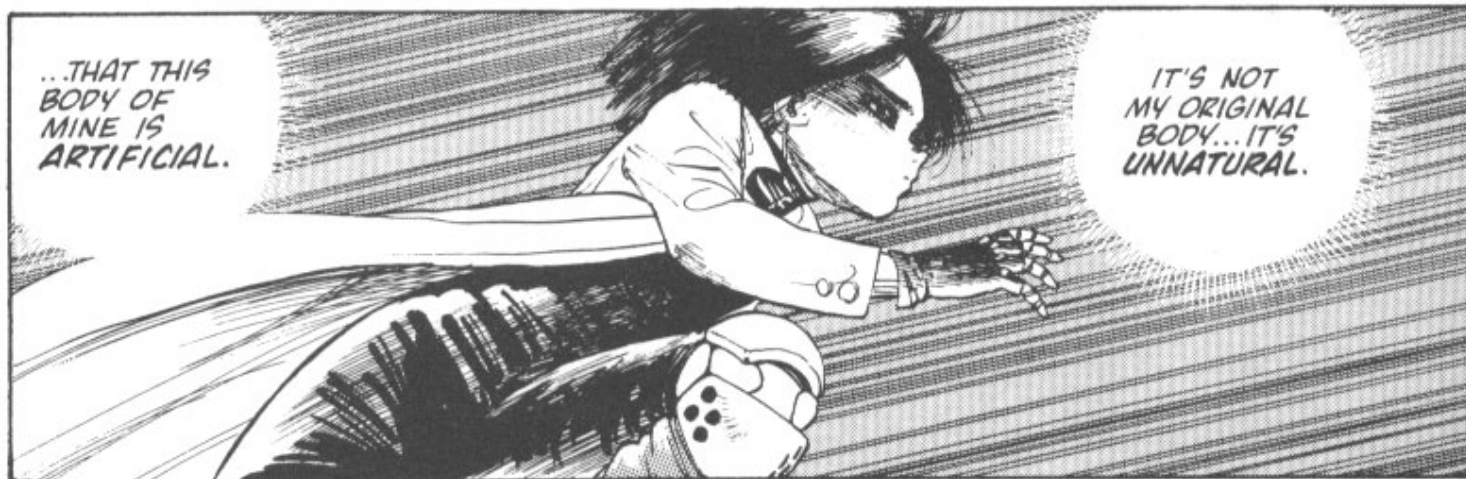
WHAT
HAPPENED,
ALITA!

KRESH
CRACK



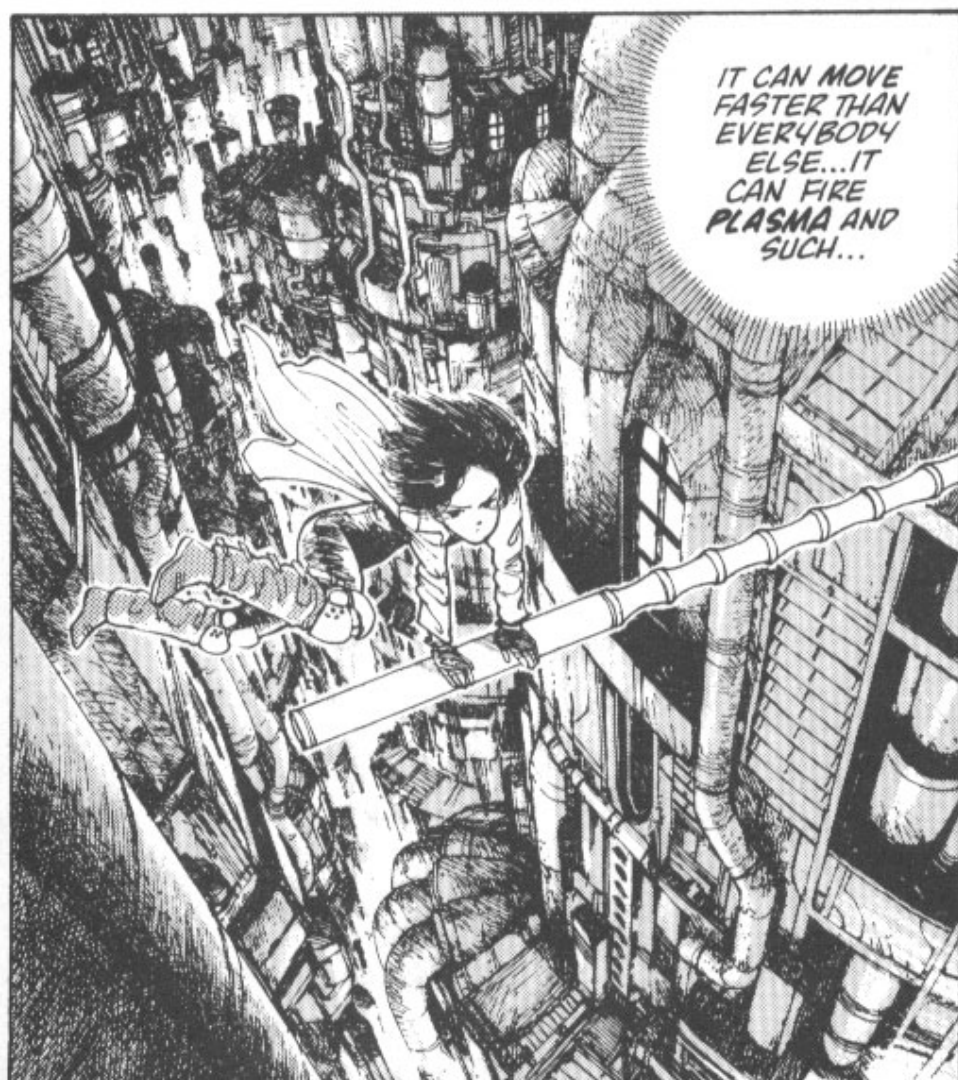


I NEVER
GAVE IT
A SECOND
THOUGHT
BEFORE...



...THAT THIS
BODY OF
MINE IS
ARTIFICIAL.

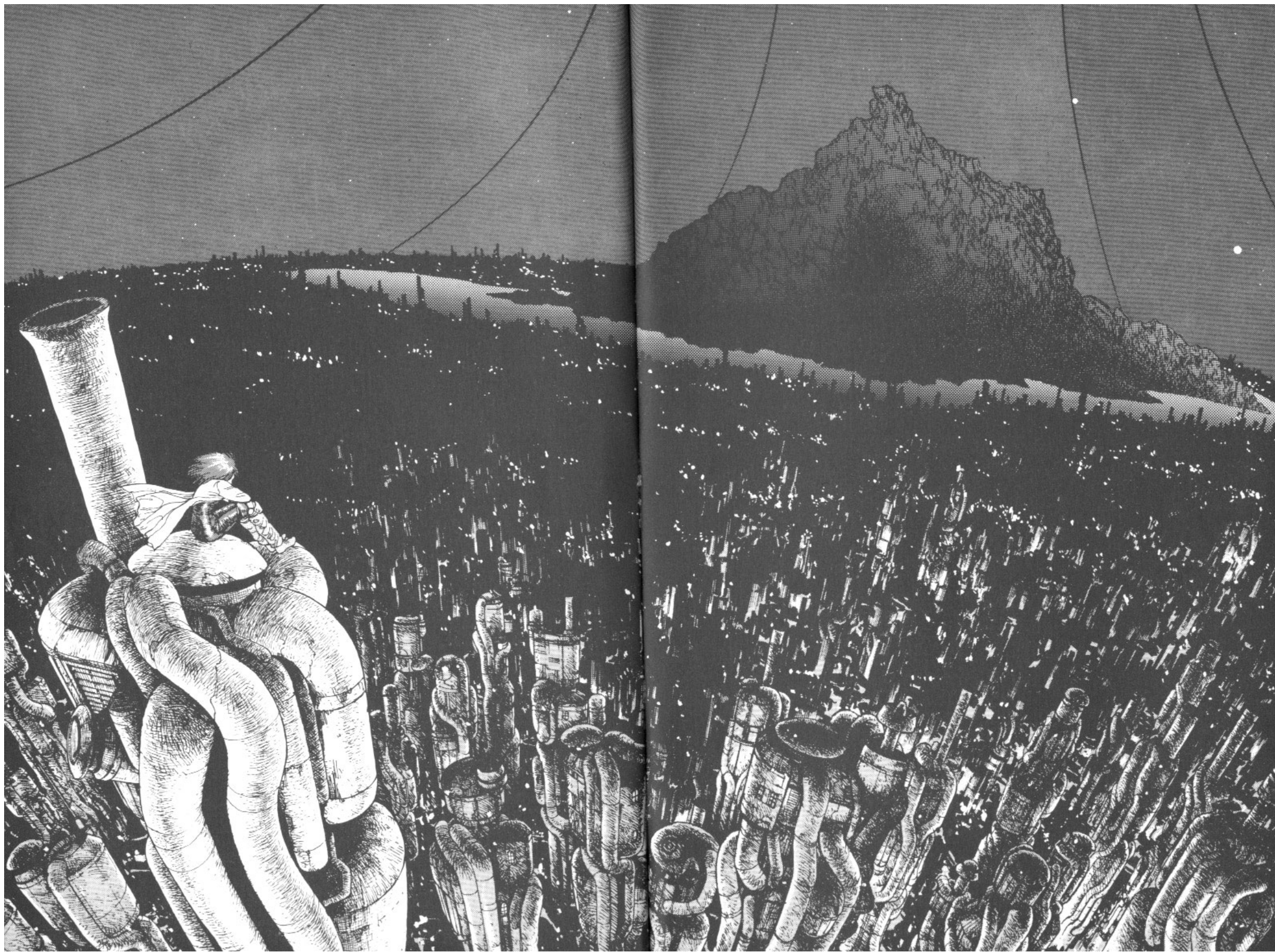
IT'S NOT
MY ORIGINAL
BODY... IT'S
UNNATURAL.

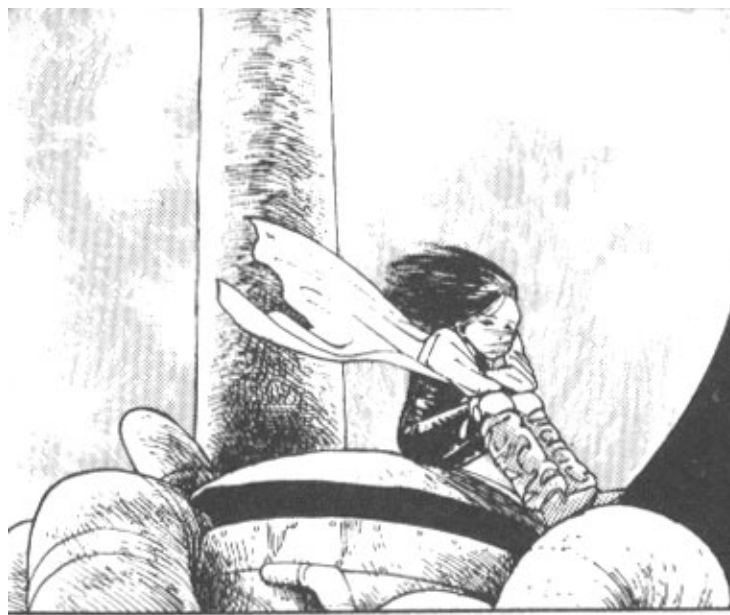


IT CAN MOVE
FASTER THAN
EVERYBODY
ELSE... IT
CAN FIRE
PLASMA AND
SUCH...



...BUT IT'S
NOT
BUILT FOR
FALLING IN
LOVE!

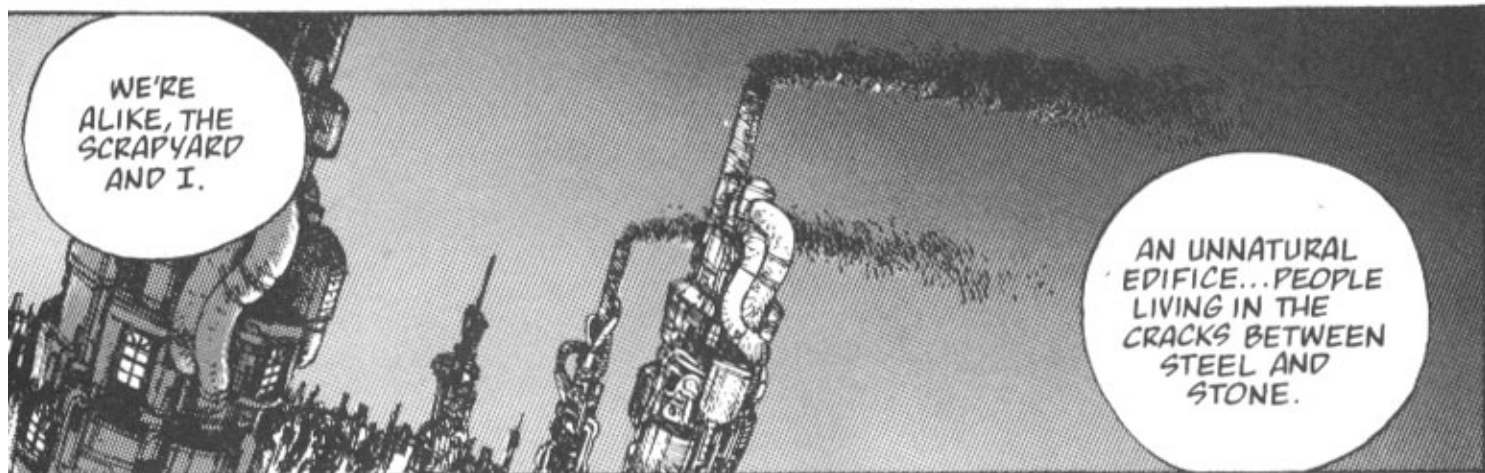




WHSSSH

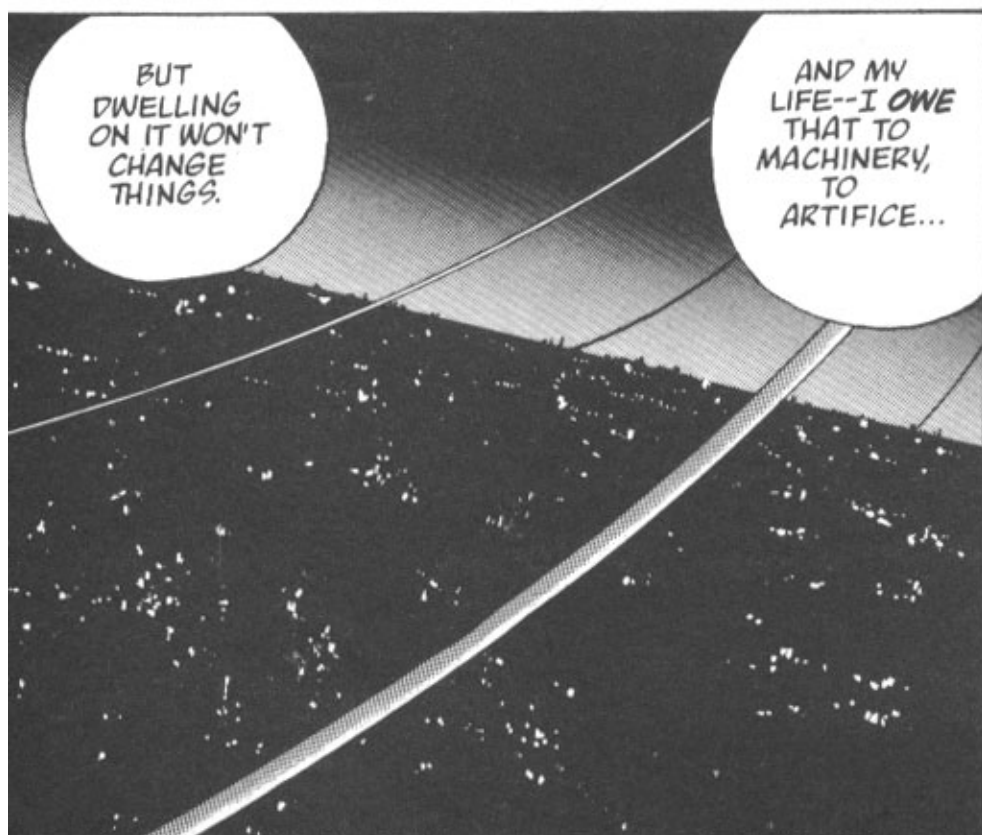


GROUND
CITIES
ARE SO
UGLY.



WE'RE
ALIKE, THE
SCRAPYARD
AND I.

AN UNNATURAL
EDIFICE...PEOPLE
LIVING IN THE
CRACKS BETWEEN
STEEL AND
STONE.



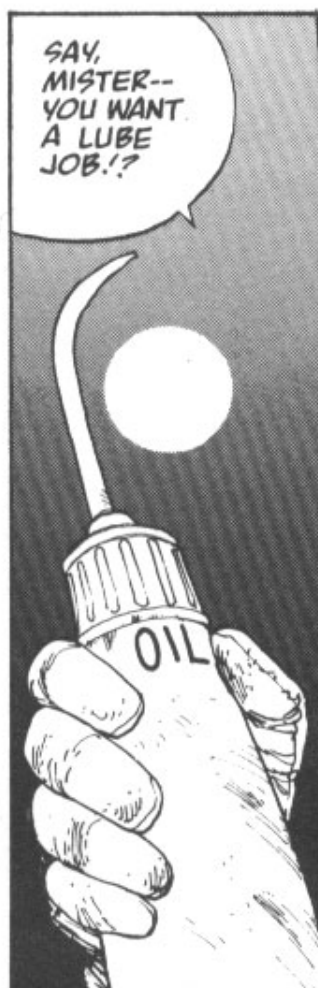
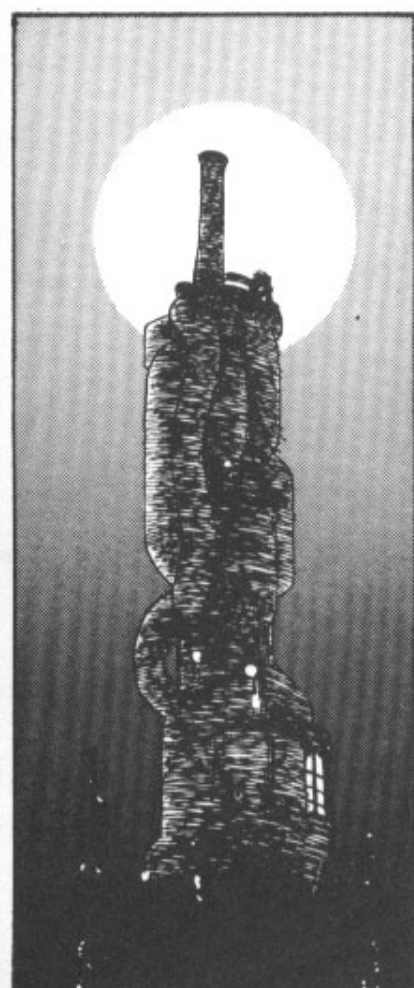
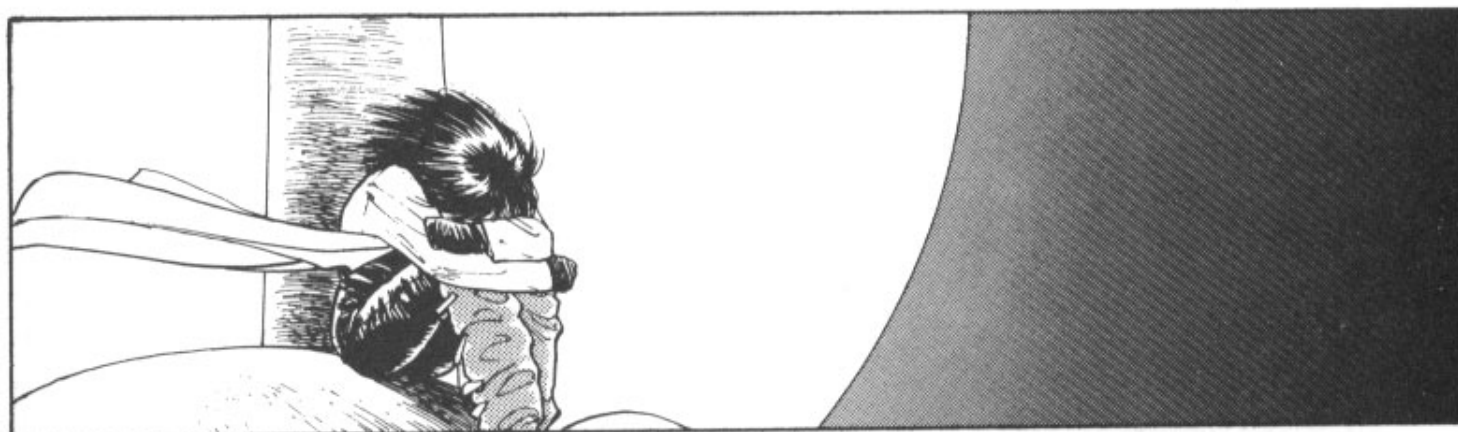
BUT
DWELLING
ON IT WON'T
CHANGE
THINGS.

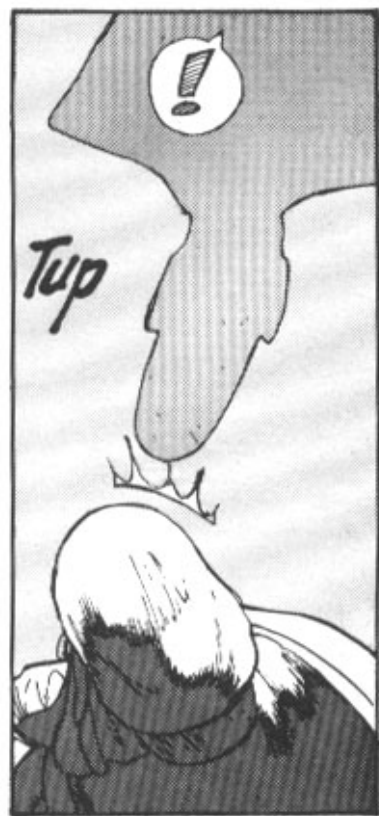
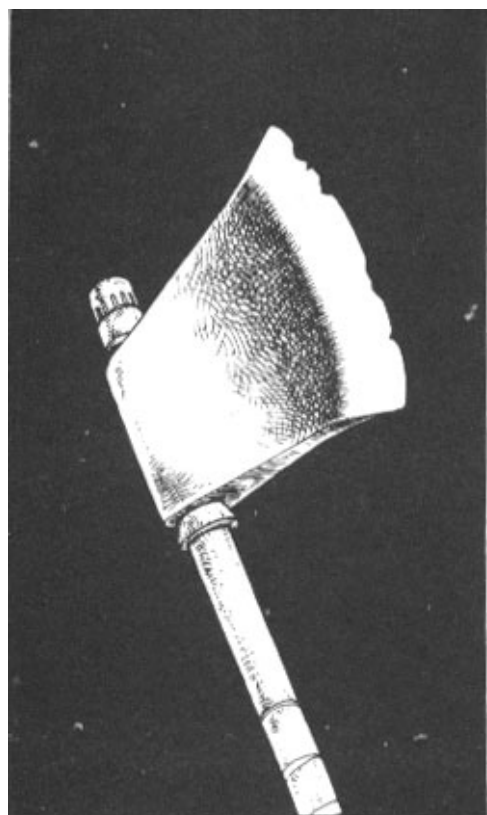
AND MY
LIFE--I OWE
THAT TO
MACHINERY,
TO
ARTIFICE...



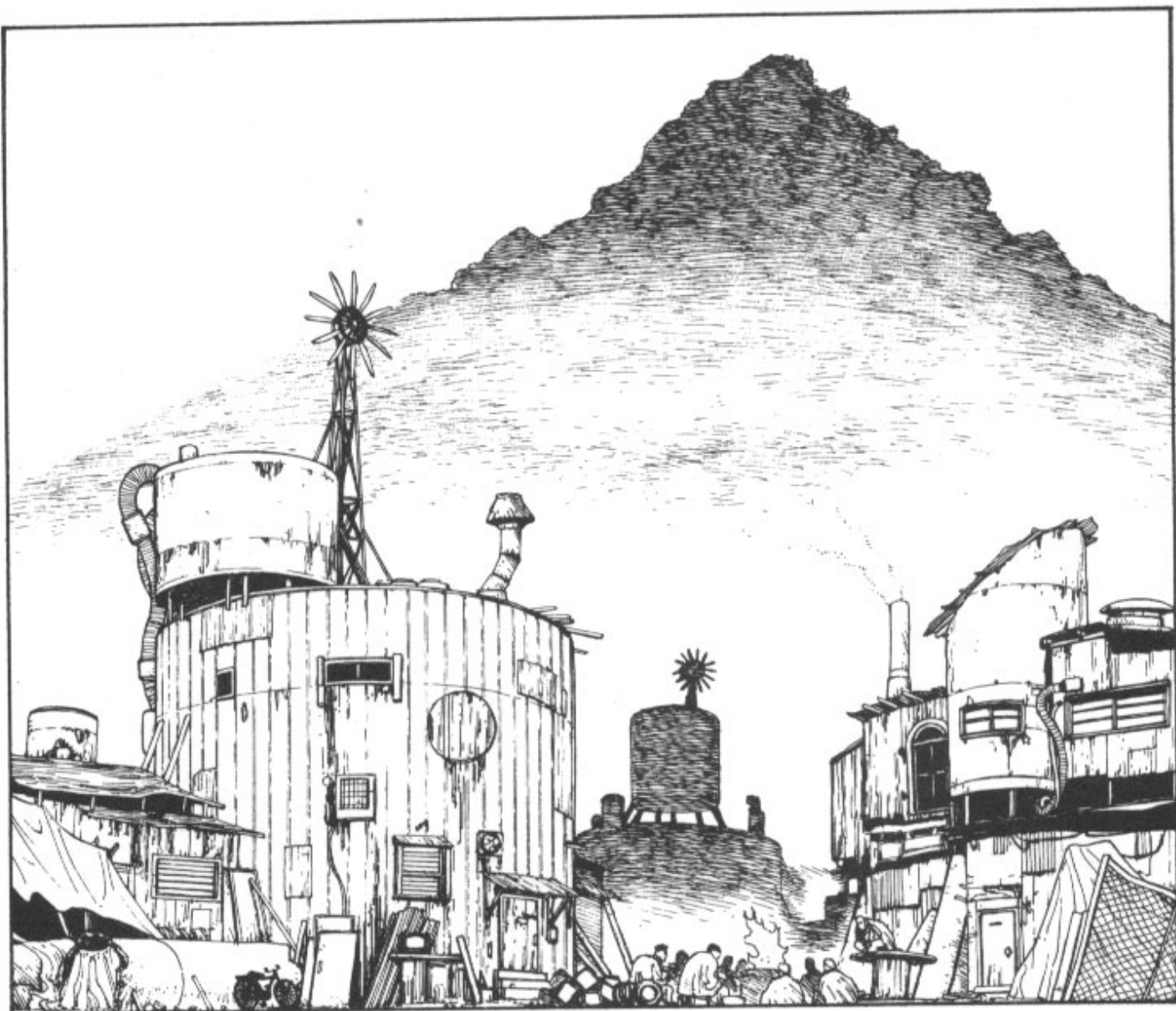
I HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO LIVE
WITH IT.

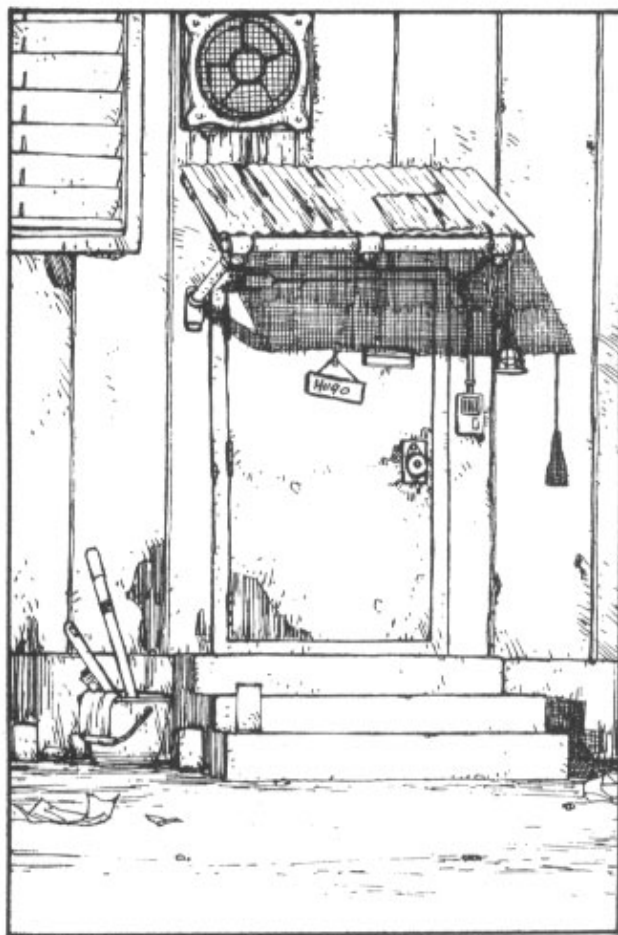
HUGO...

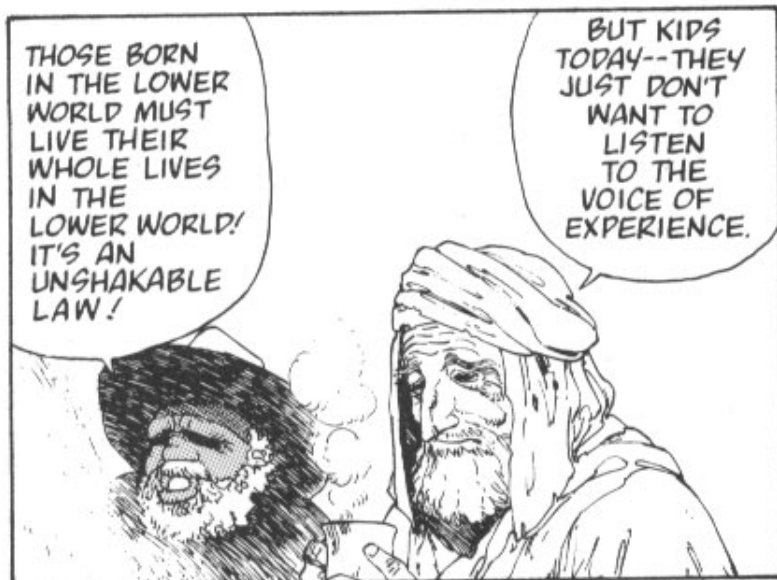










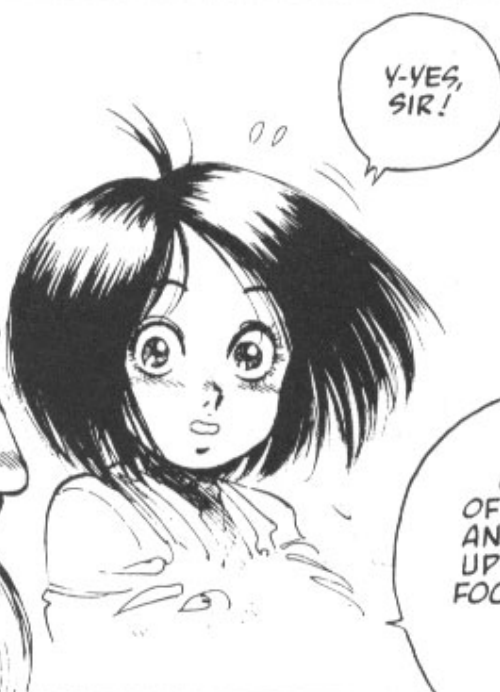




DANGEROUS
WORK....!?



MISS, YOU'VE
GOT TO HURRY
UP AND
CAPTURE
HUGO'S
HEART!



Y-YES,
SIR!

GET HOLD
OF HIM GOOD--
AND WAKE HIM
UP FROM THIS
FOOLISH DREAM
OF HIS!

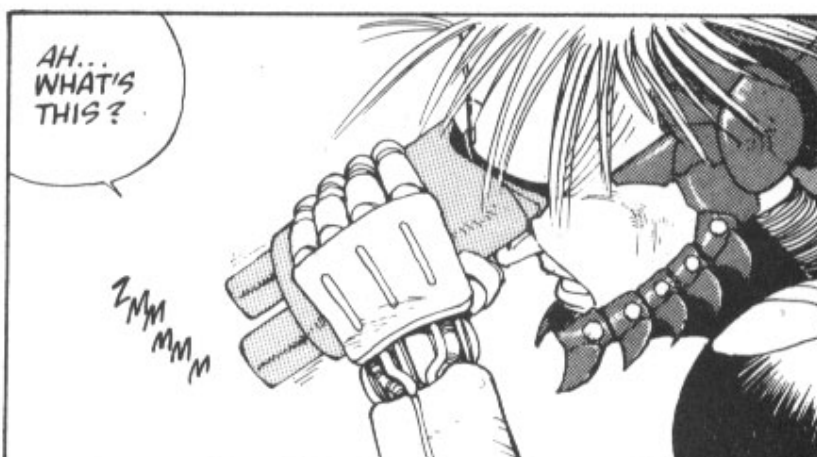


FOOLISH
DREAM...

....IS
THAT
WHAT
IT
IS...?



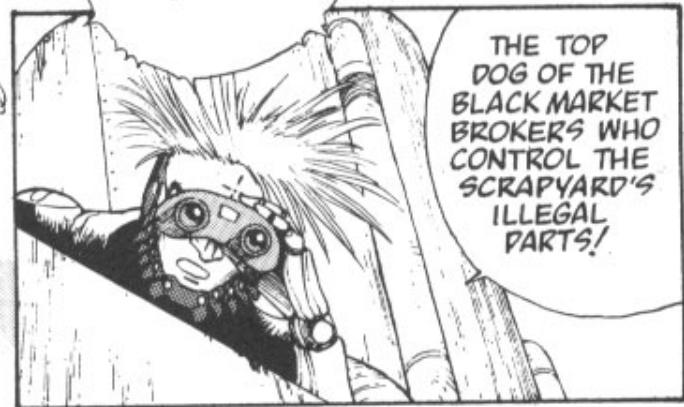
HMPH.



AH...
WHAT'S
THIS?



THAT
MAN! IT'S
VECTOR
!



THE TOP
DOG OF THE
BLACK MARKET
BROKERS WHO
CONTROL THE
SCRAPYARD'S
ILLEGAL
PARTS!



HMMM...

HEH!



HUGO
!

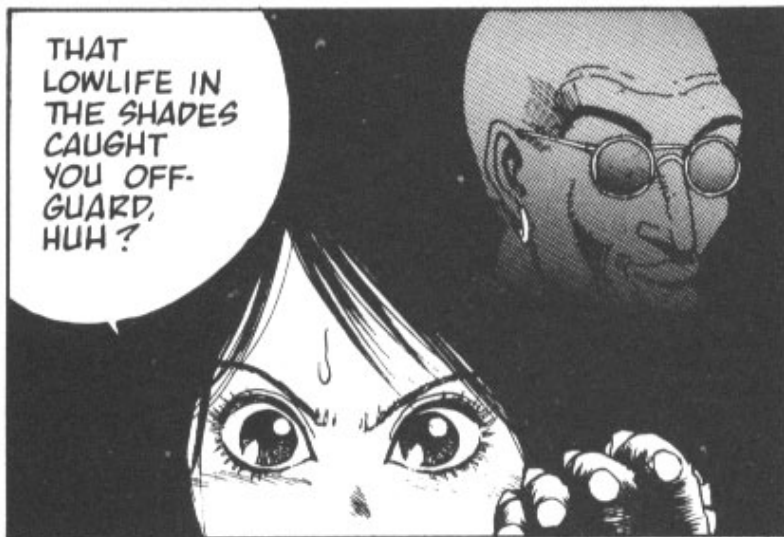
UNGH...



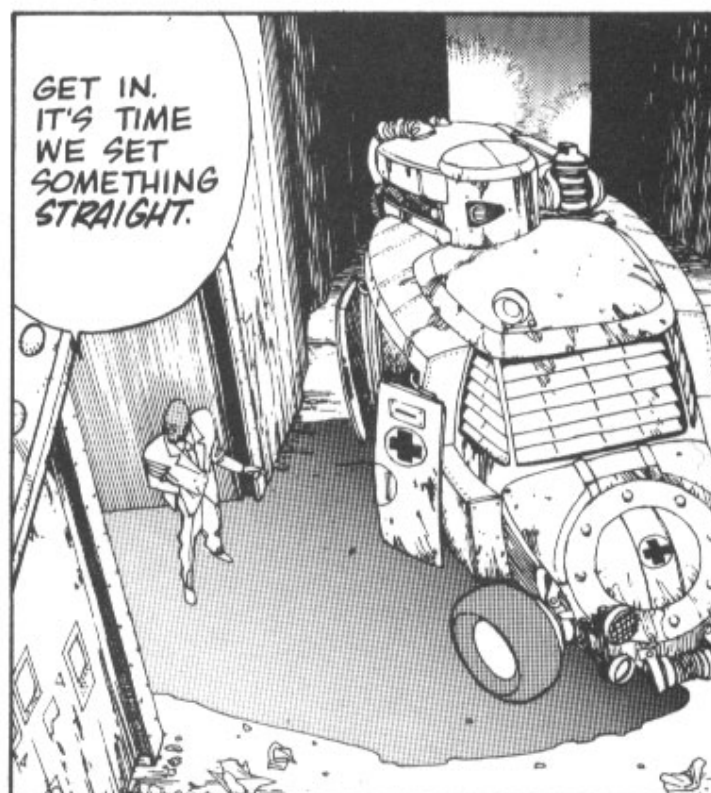
WHAT THE...
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE...?













THREE
YEARS
BACK...
I SAID
TO YOU...

"GET ME
TEN-THOUSAND
CHIPS AND
I'LL SEND
YOU TO
TIPHARES."



IN ANOTHER SIX
MONTHS, YOU'LL HAVE
EARNED A DECADE'S
PAY IN JUST OVER
THREE YEARS. I'M
IMPRESSED!

WELL, A
DESPERATE
FOOL WILL
ALWAYS
FIND A
WAY, I
GUESS...



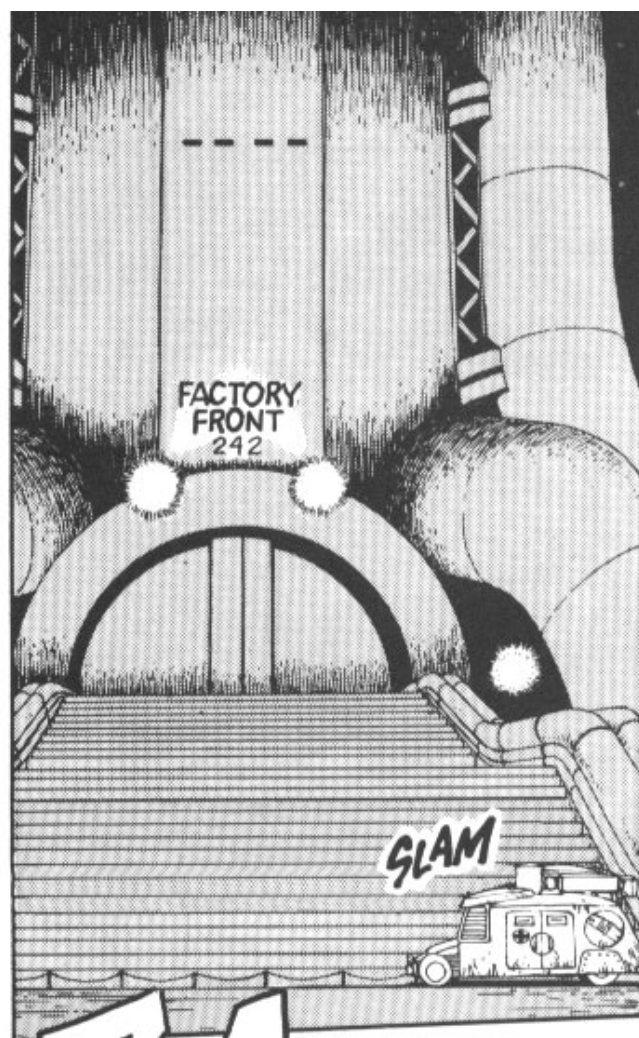
YOU PLAY
PEOPLE WELL,
HUGO--YOU'VE
GOT ENERGY
AND GUTS!

BUT BEYOND
ALL THAT,
YOU'RE LOYAL,
FOCUSED...

I
APPRECIATE
YOU--
UNDERSTAND
?



YEAH,
WELL...
SHUCKS...



ZASH



SHARE
A
DRINK
WITH
ME,
HUGO.



THIS IS
SERIOUS
DRINK HERE--
NOT YOUR
STREET WATER.
GIVE IT A
TRY!

TIPHARES

Y-YES,
SIR.



GULP



GAACK!
ACK!



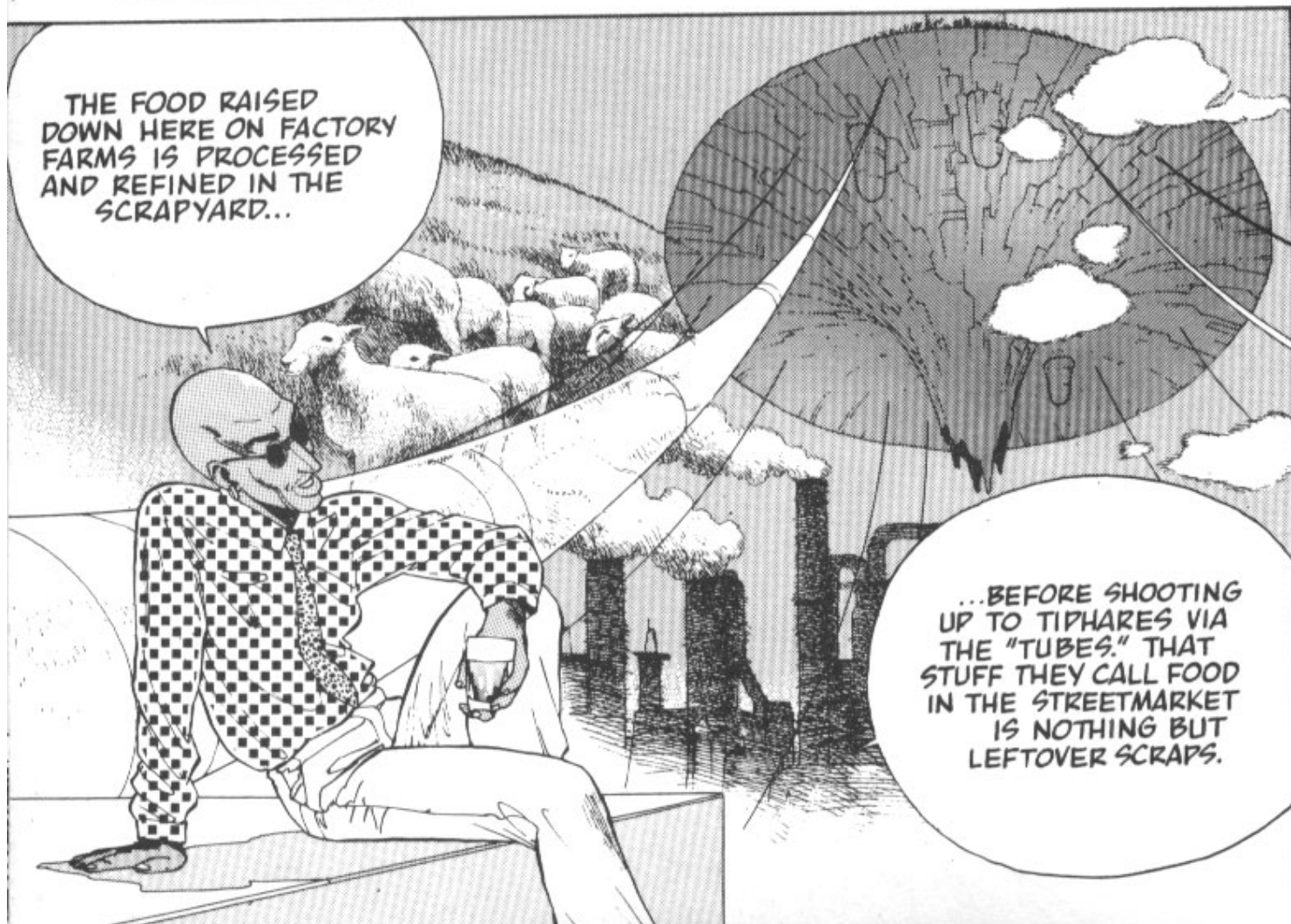
HA, HA! I
SAID IT WAS
SERIOUS. GET
A TASTE OF
TIPHARES?



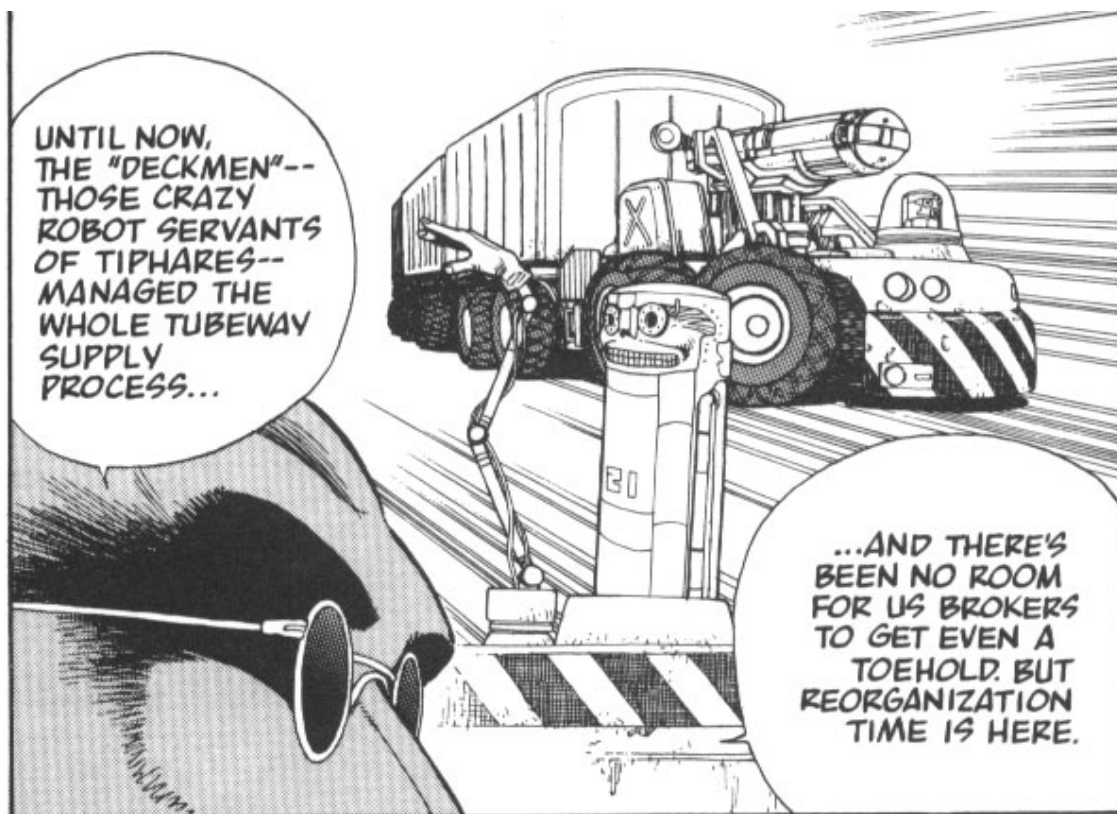
THEY'VE GOT
EVERYTHING
THERE--GOOD
DRINK, GOOD
FOOD, GOOD
TIMES...



THE FOOD RAISED
DOWN HERE ON FACTORY
FARMS IS PROCESSED
AND REFINED IN THE
SCRAPYARD...



...BEFORE SHOOTING
UP TO TIPHARES VIA
THE "TUBES." THAT
STUFF THEY CALL FOOD
IN THE STREETMARKET
IS NOTHING BUT
LEFTOVER SCRAPS.

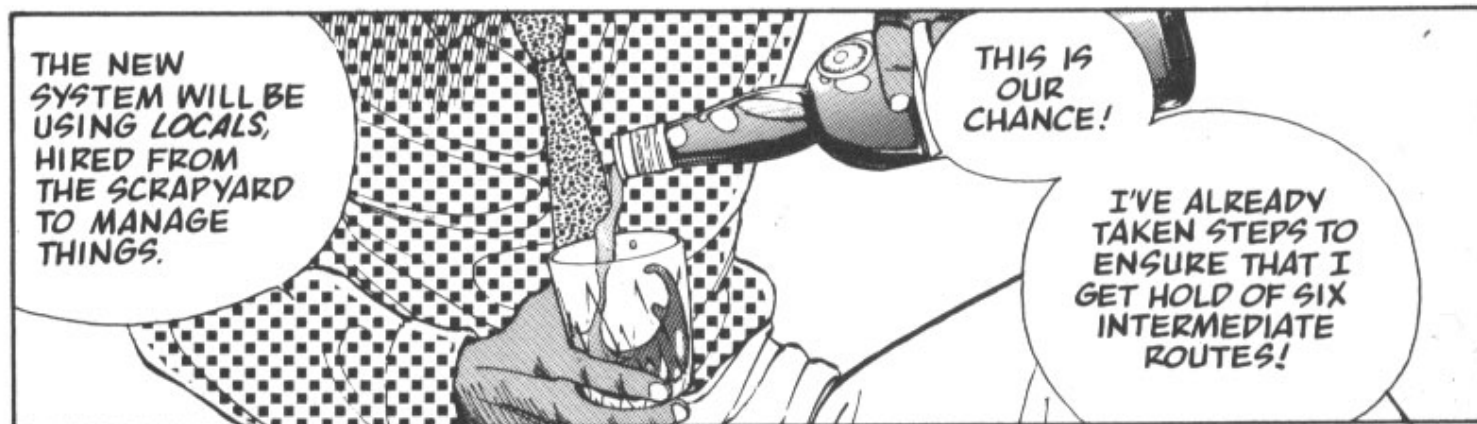


UNTIL NOW,
THE "DECKMEN"--
THOSE CRAZY
ROBOT SERVANTS
OF TIPHARES--
MANAGED THE
WHOLE TUBEWAY
SUPPLY
PROCESS...

...AND THERE'S
BEEN NO ROOM
FOR US BROKERS
TO GET EVEN A
TOE HOLD. BUT
REORGANIZATION
TIME IS HERE.



HMM...



THE NEW
SYSTEM WILL BE
USING LOCALS,
HIRED FROM
THE SCRAPYARD
TO MANAGE
THINGS.

THIS IS
OUR
CHANCE!

I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN STEPS TO
ENSURE THAT I
GET HOLD OF SIX
INTERMEDIATE
ROUTES!

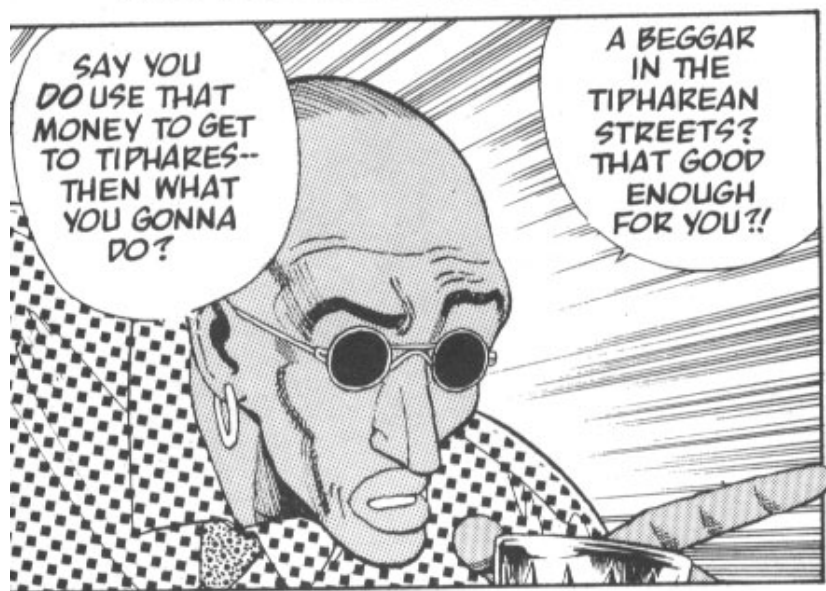


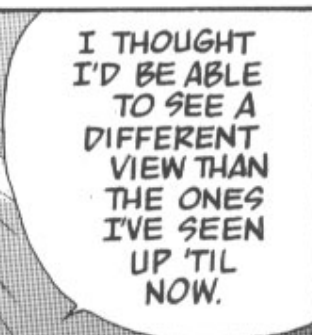
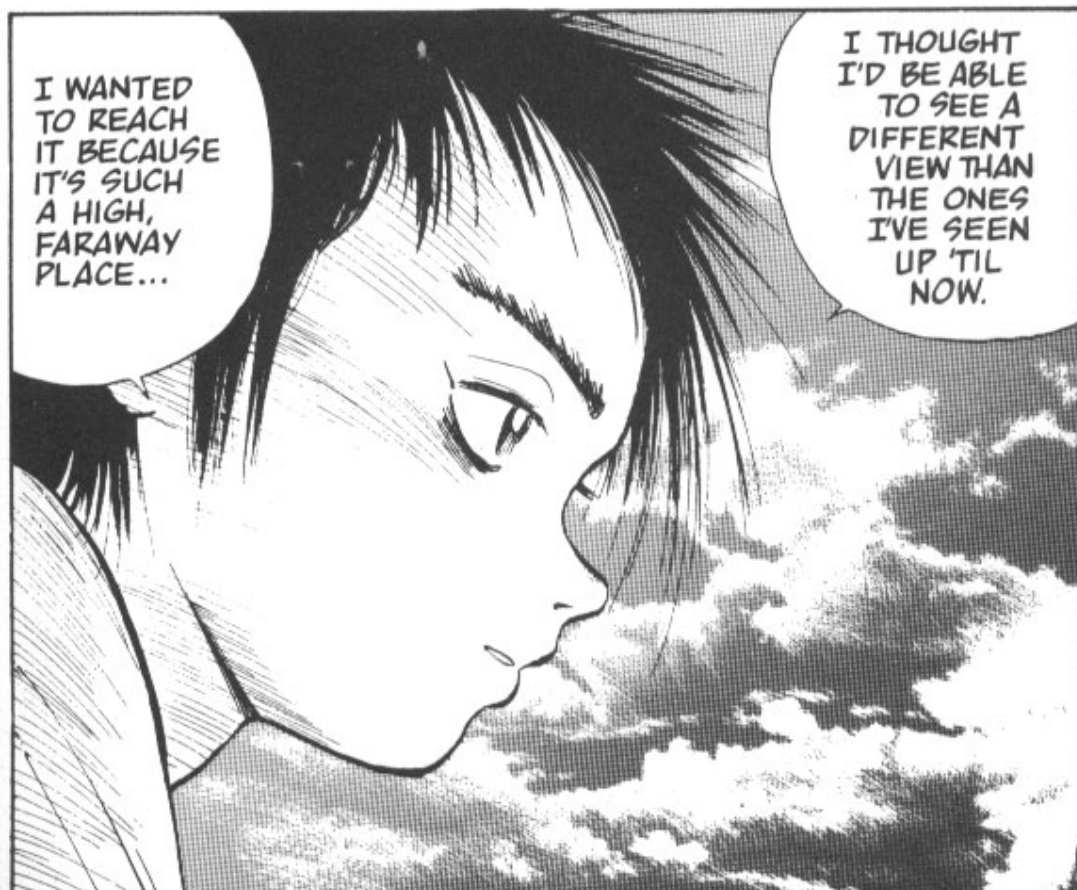
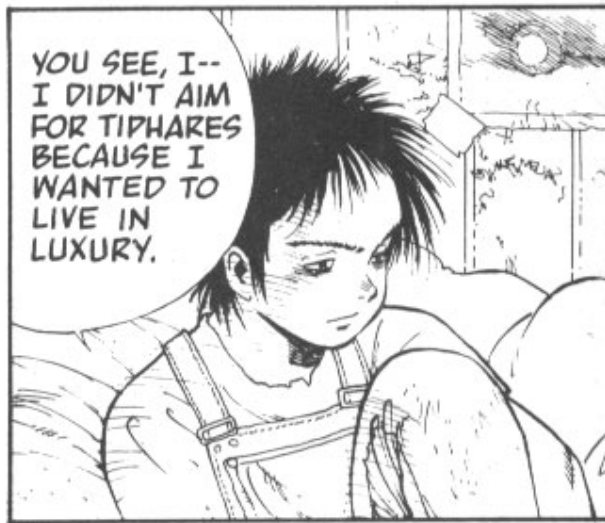
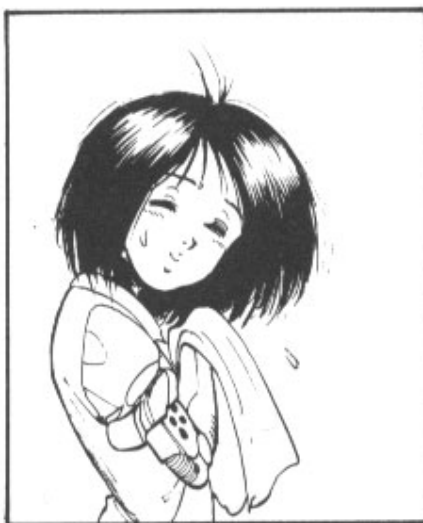
S-SO WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO
TALK TO
ME
ABOUT?



I WANT
TO LET
YOU IN
ON THE
ACTION!

I WANT
YOU TO TAKE
ON ONE OF
THE
INTERMEDIATE
ROUTES!







I LIKE
THOSE EYES OF
YOURS, ALWAYS
LOOKING
TOWARD
THE SKY...

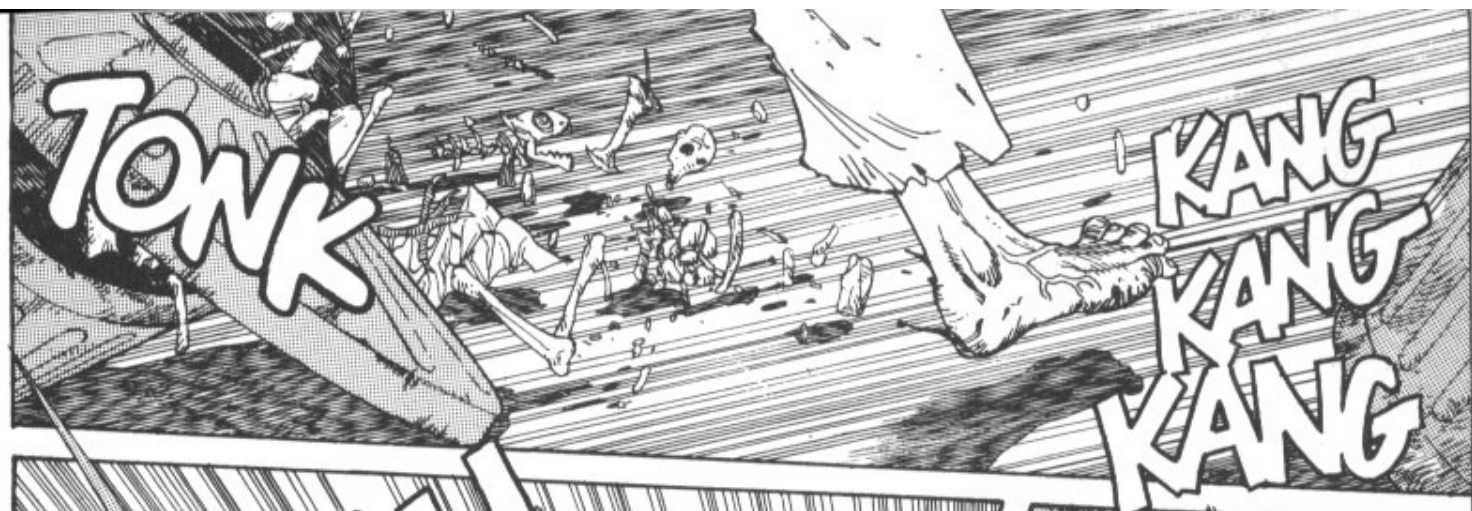


...THEY
WOULDN'T
BE THE SAME
WITHOUT A
DREAM
BEHIND
THEM.

"OH, HUGO--
EVEN IF ALL I AM TO YOU IS A **BUSYBODY**...
...I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE..."

THE TUBEWAY TO TIPHARES MOANS,
AS IF AGREEING WITH THE
YOUNG GIRL'S SILENT WISH...

OMSHHOOHMM



THERE'S
ANOTHER
HUNDRED
THOUSAND
CHIPS!

PLOOK



JUST
WATCH! I'LL
MAKE TEN
MILLION
CHIPS IN
JUST A
MONTH!

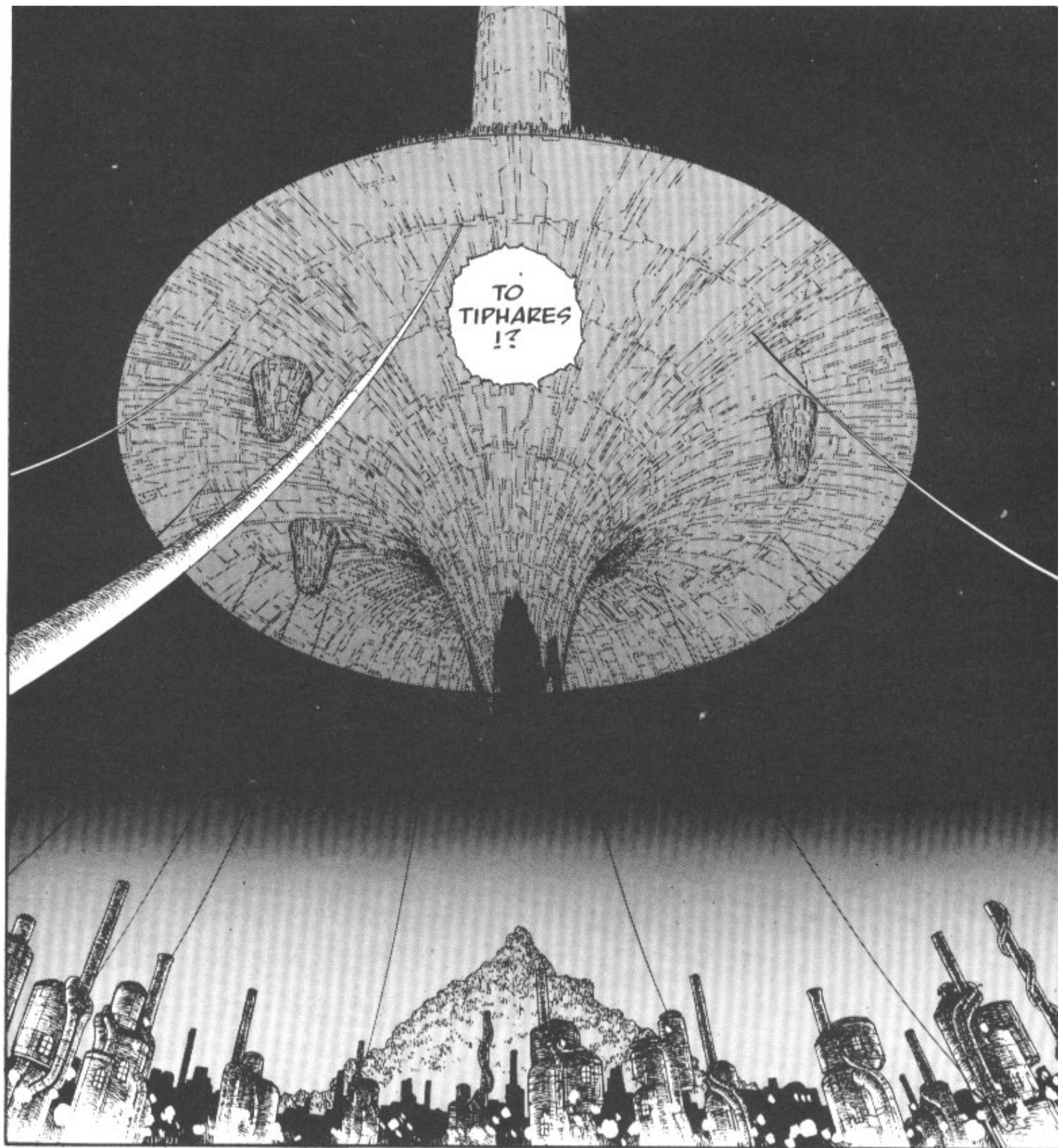
IT SEEMS THE
DIRTY WORK ISN'T
SO DIRTY ANYMORE...
WHAT HAPPENED,
ALITA?

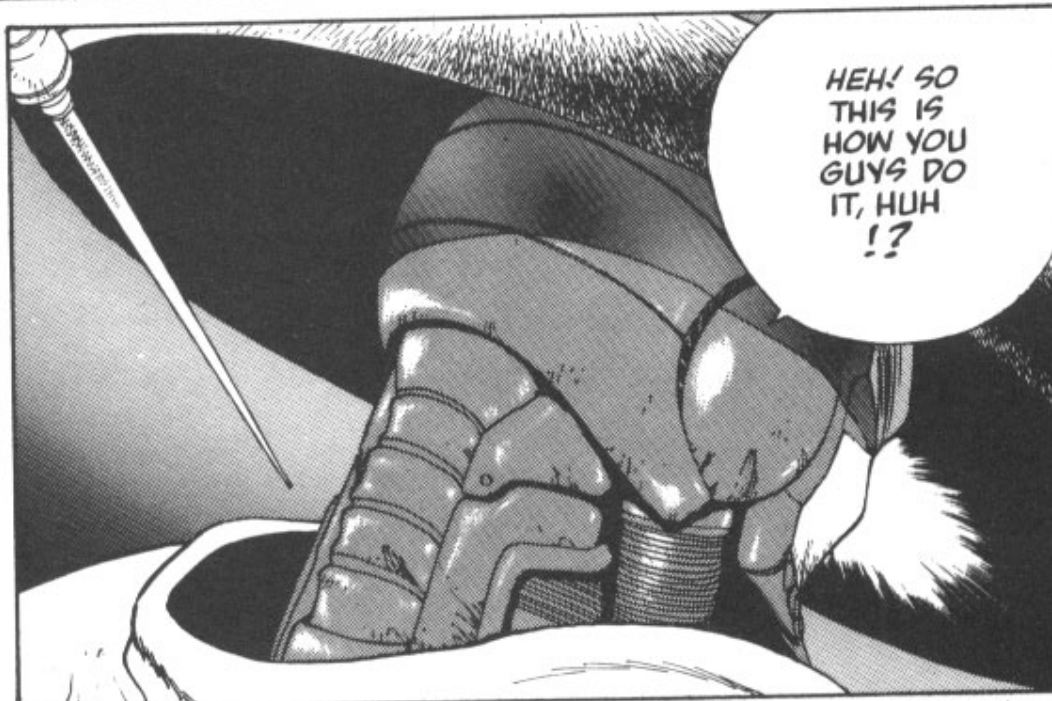
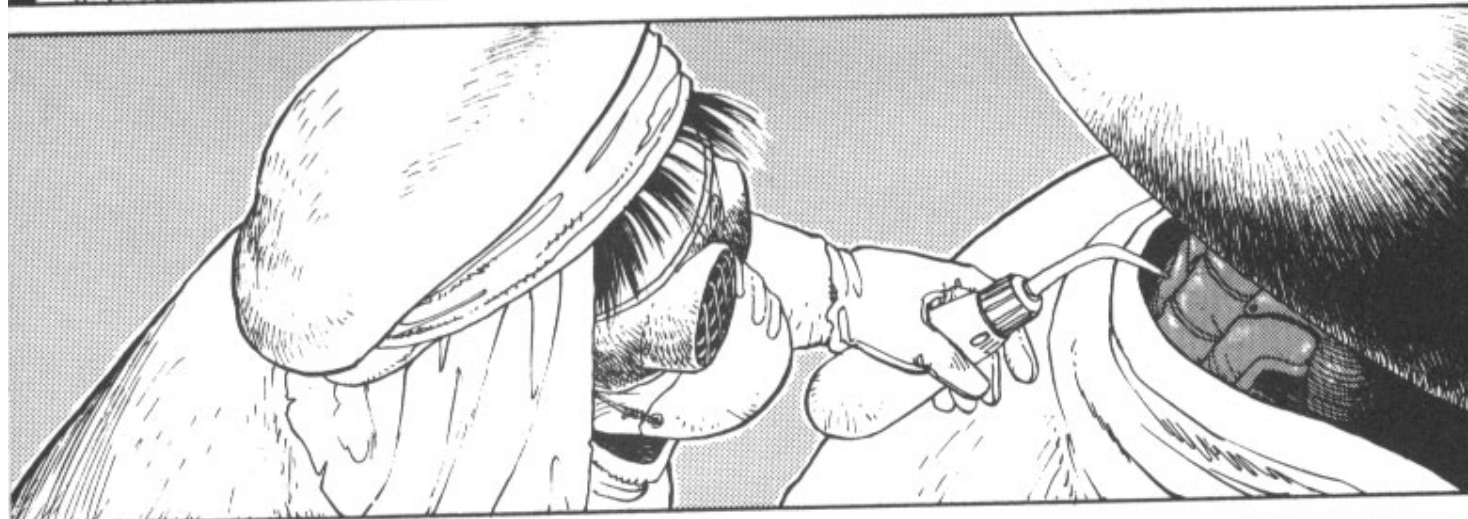
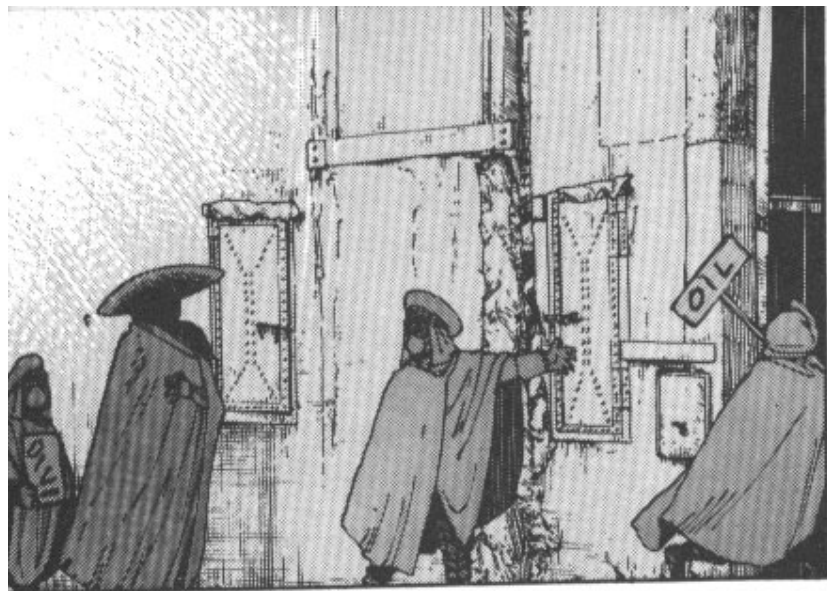
IDO...
I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND!

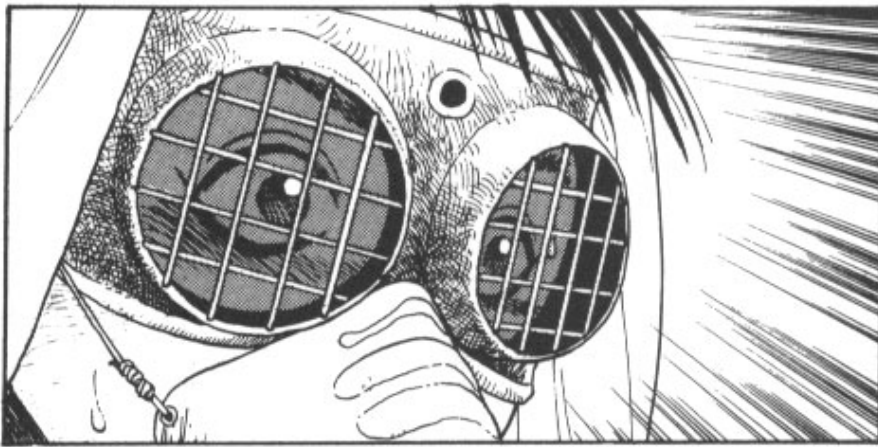
I'M GOING
WITH
HUGO!

TO
TIPHARES
!!

WHA--?



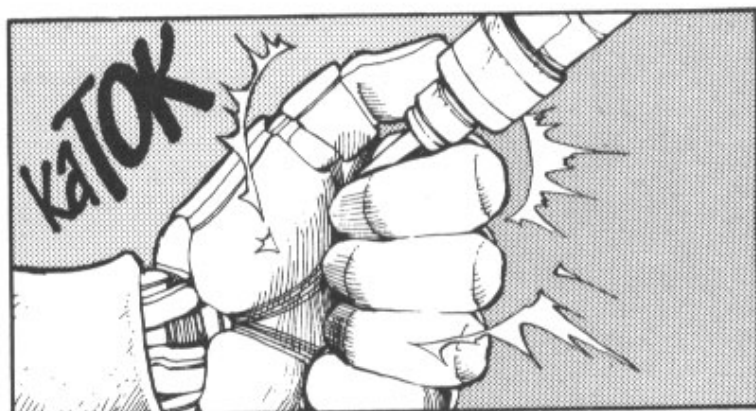
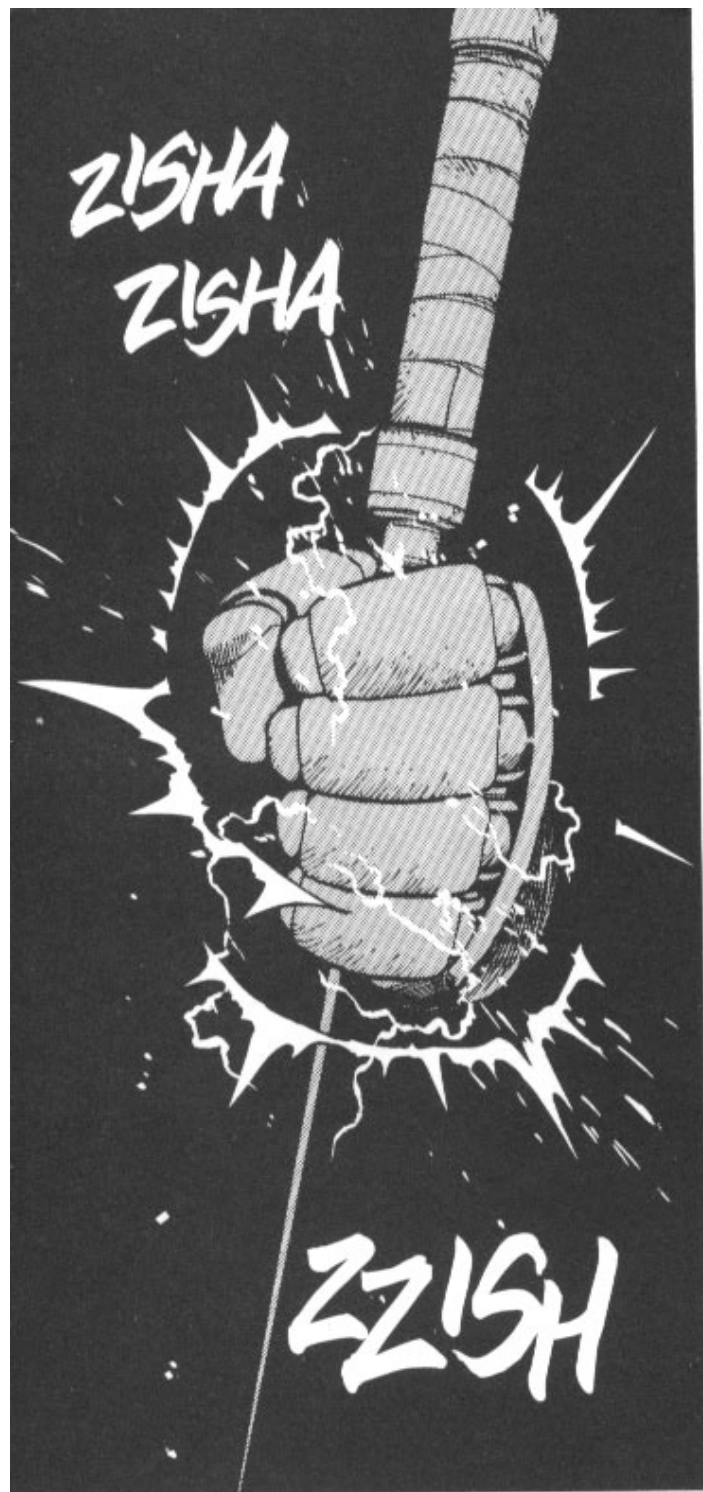




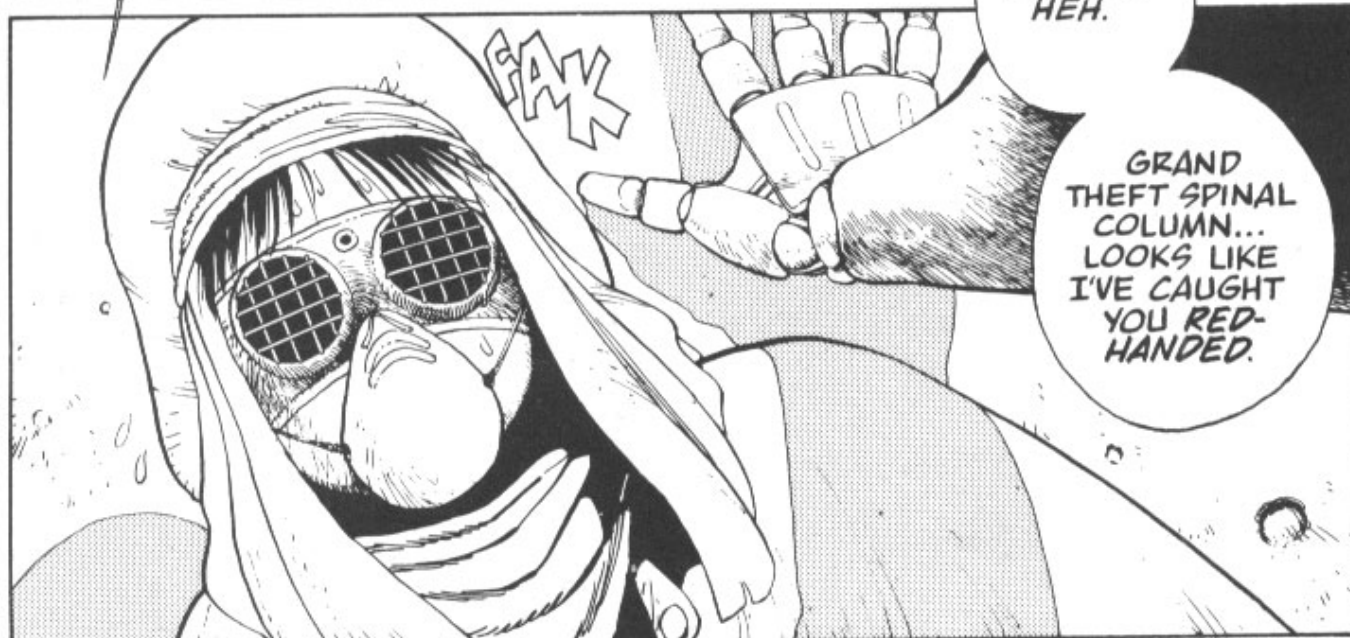
WHEN
YOUR
FACE
SHOWS
UP ON
THE
BOUNTY
LIST...

...I BET IT
WILL REALLY
MESS UP
THAT LITTLE
ALITA OF
YOURS--
DON'T YOU,
HUGO?

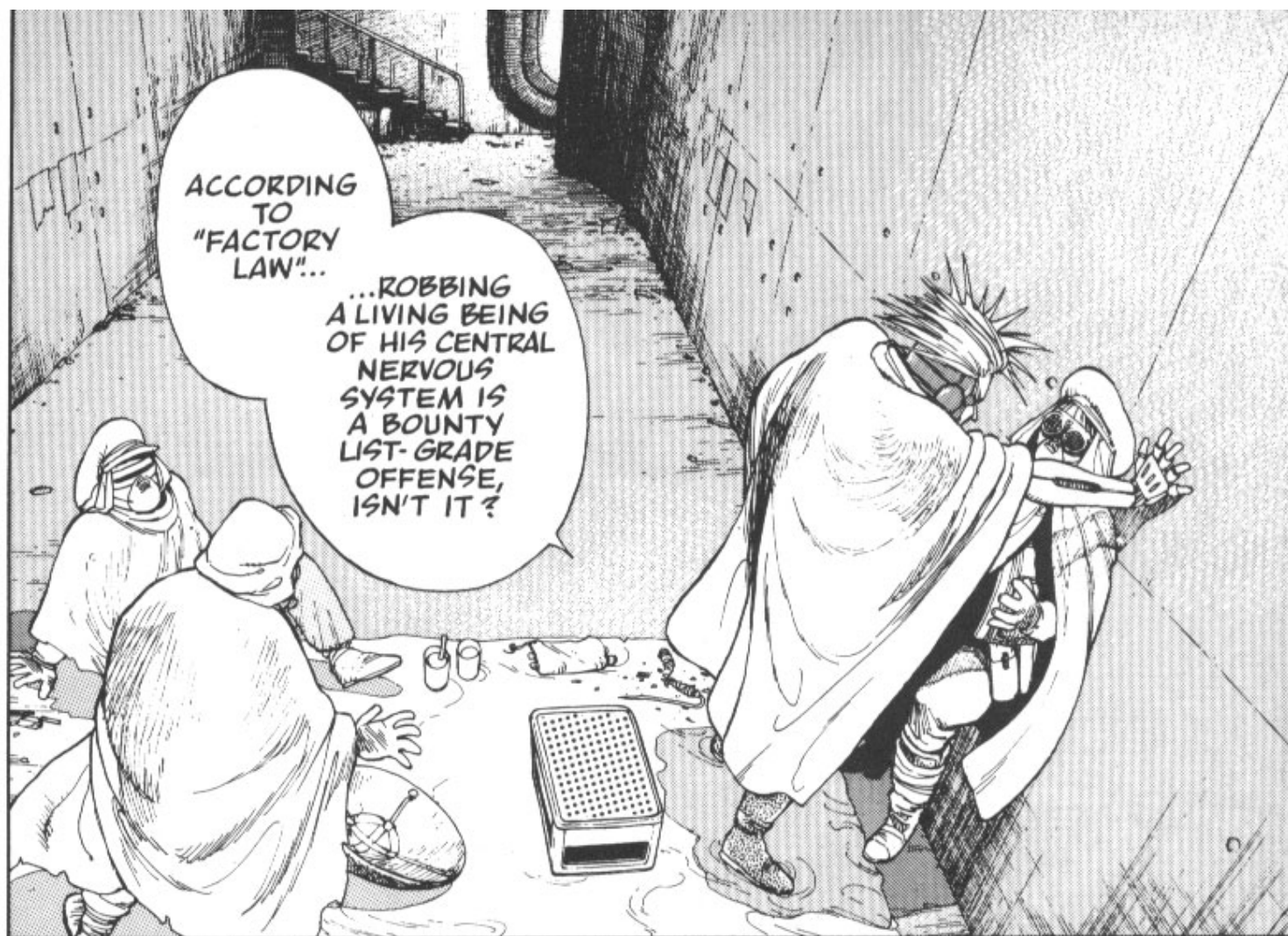




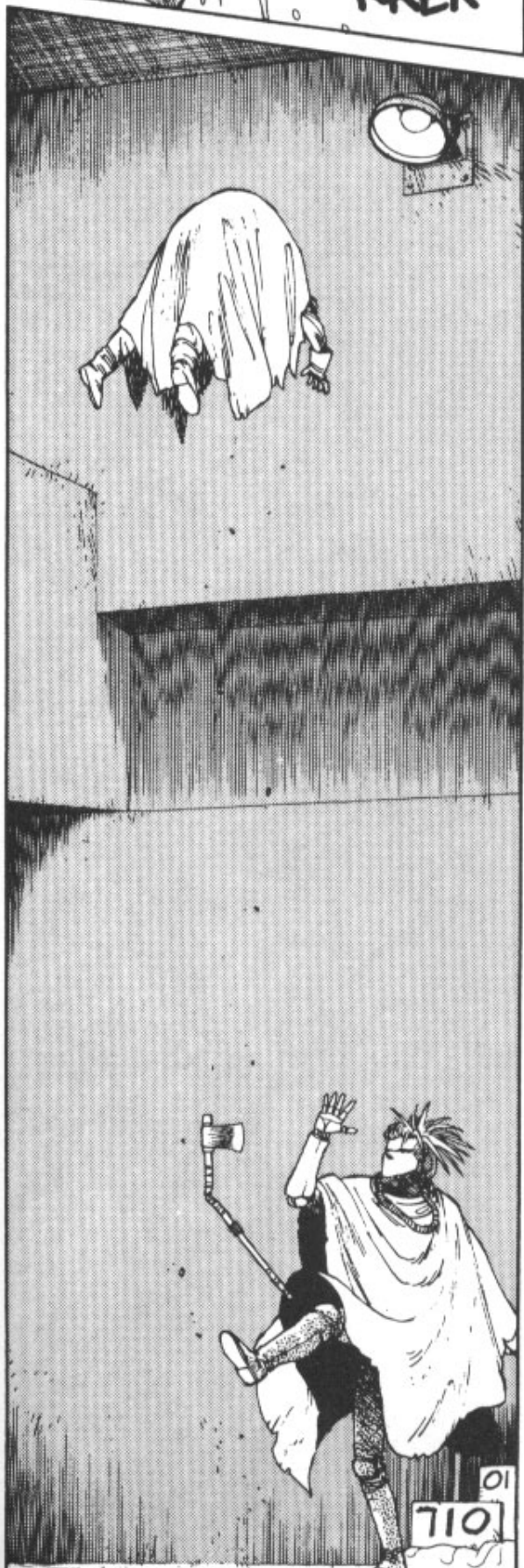
HEH,
HEH, HEH,
HEH.



GRAND
THEFT SPINAL
COLUMN...
LOOKS LIKE
I'VE CAUGHT
YOU RED-
HANDED.

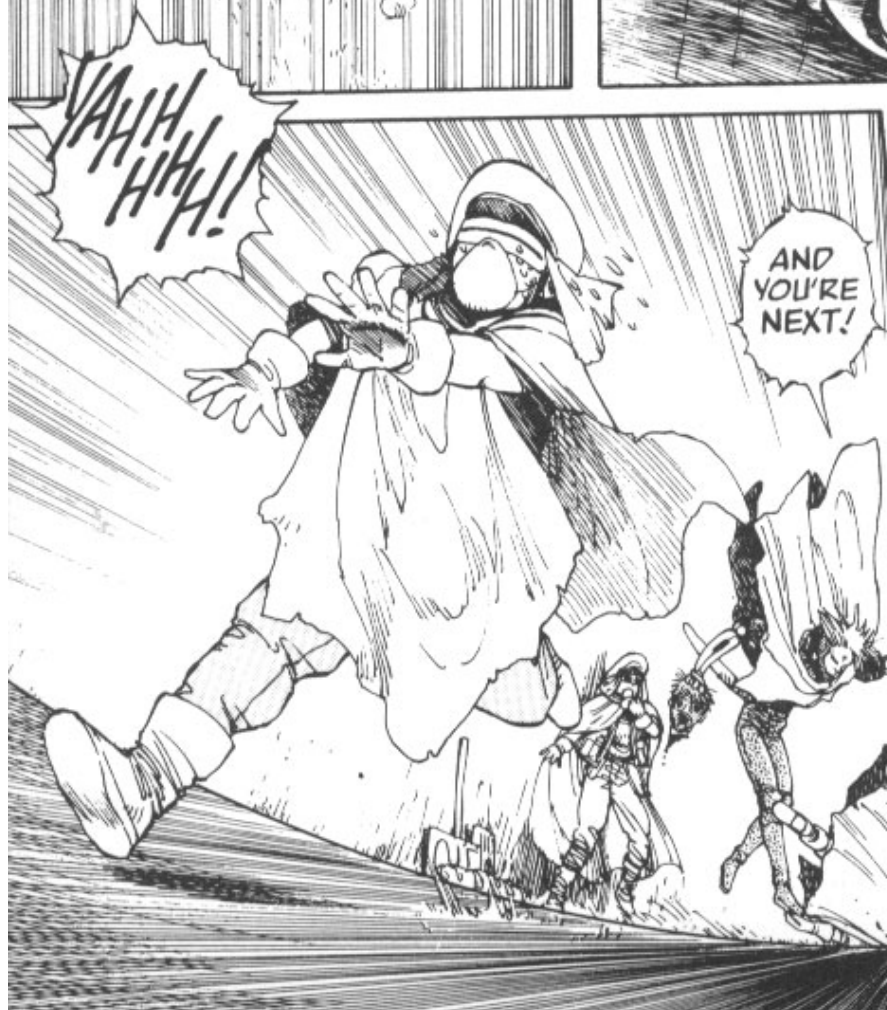






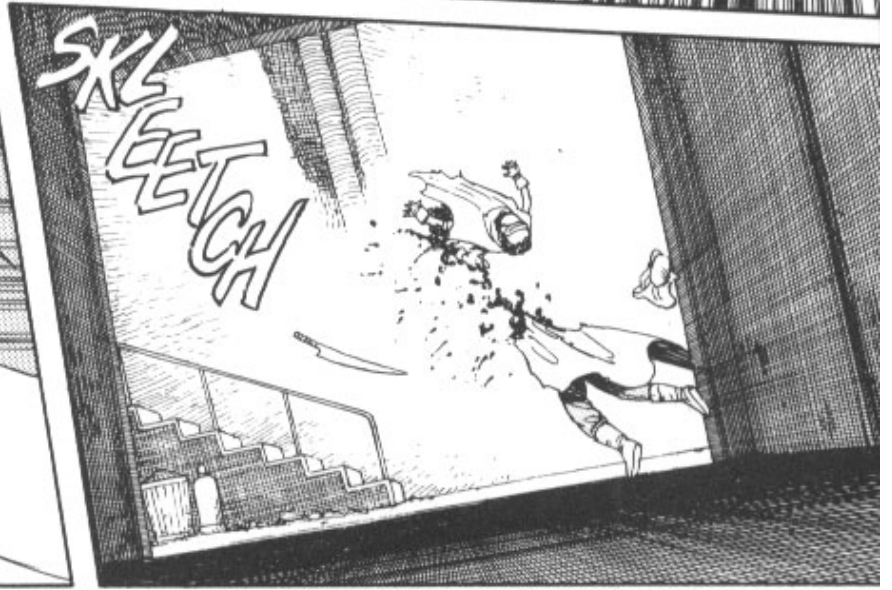


YOU'RE
MINE
!



AND
YOU'RE
NEXT!

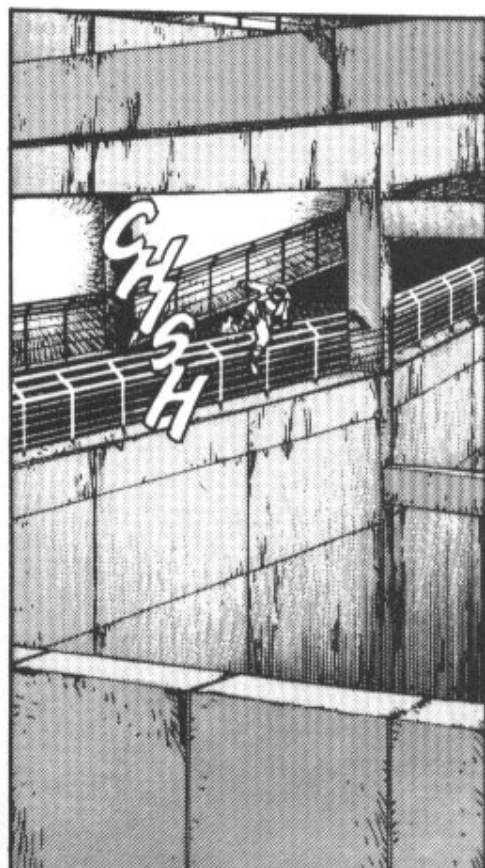
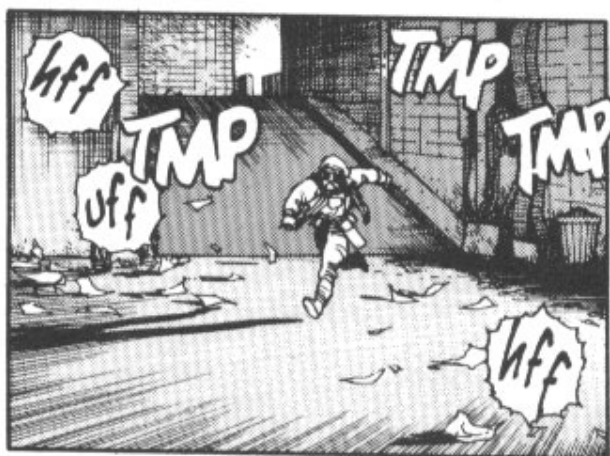






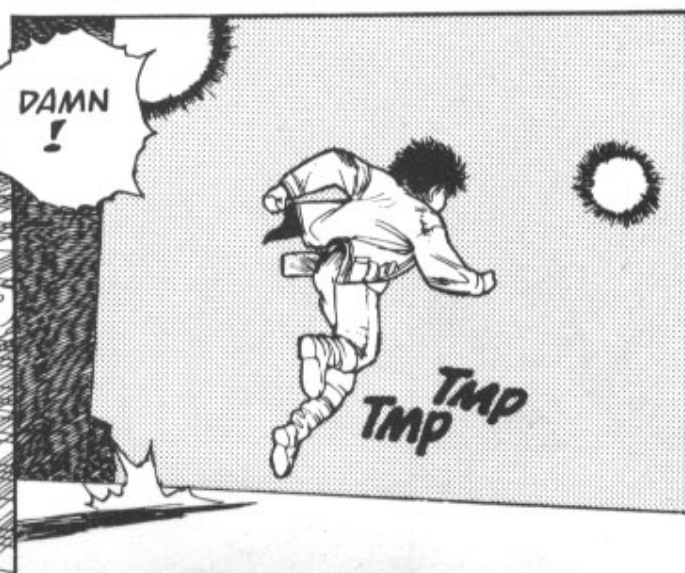
SSSSSSSS













I CAN'T
LET IT
END THIS
WAY!

I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE! NOT 'TIL
I GET TO
TIPHARES!



A-ALITA...



WHAT
!?

WH-WHY DO
I SUDDENLY
THINK OF HER
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS...



THIS
HAS...

...NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
HER!



Ow!

BAR

WATCH
IT,
PUNK!

BONK

FACTORY
33

RMBRMBRMB

DNA FINGERPRINT*
MATCH CONFIRMED;
BRAIN DEATH
CERTIFIED; REMOVED
FROM THE LIST;
ET CETERA.

BEEP

DEAD

\$100,000

\$150,000

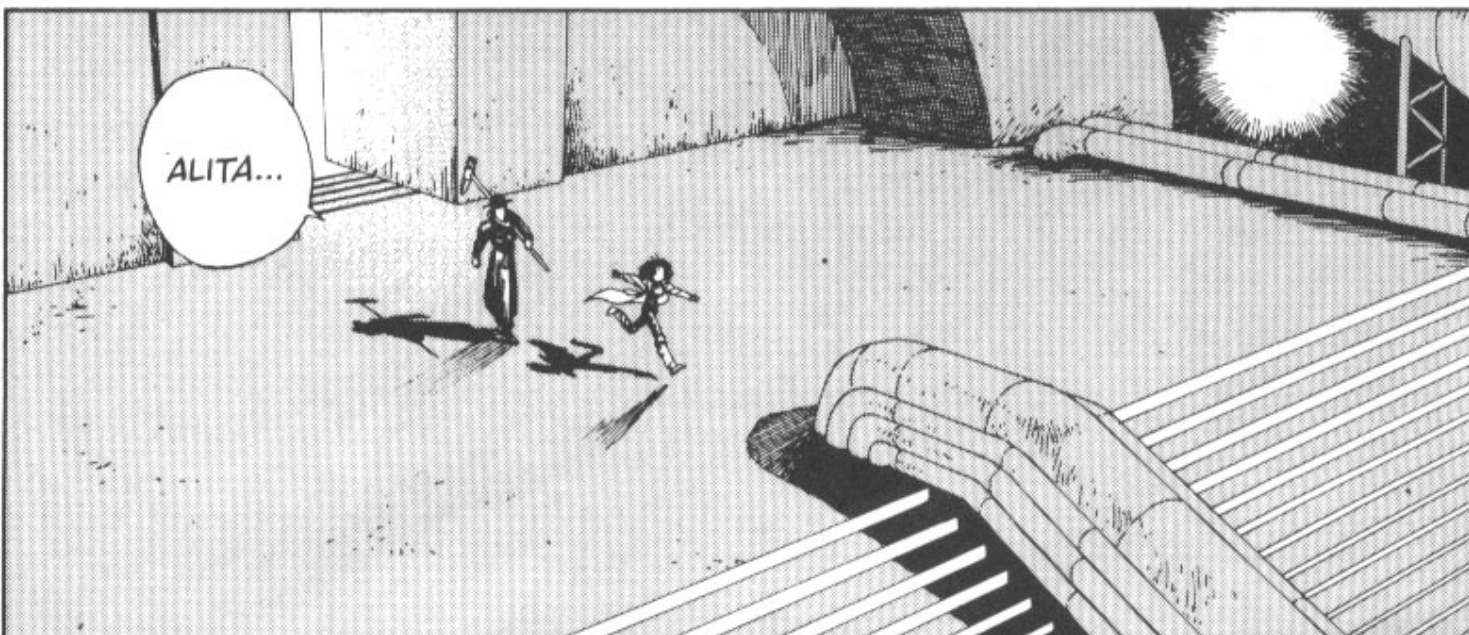
KLAKKATAPPA

THAT
COMES TO
650,000
CHIPS IN
REWARDS.

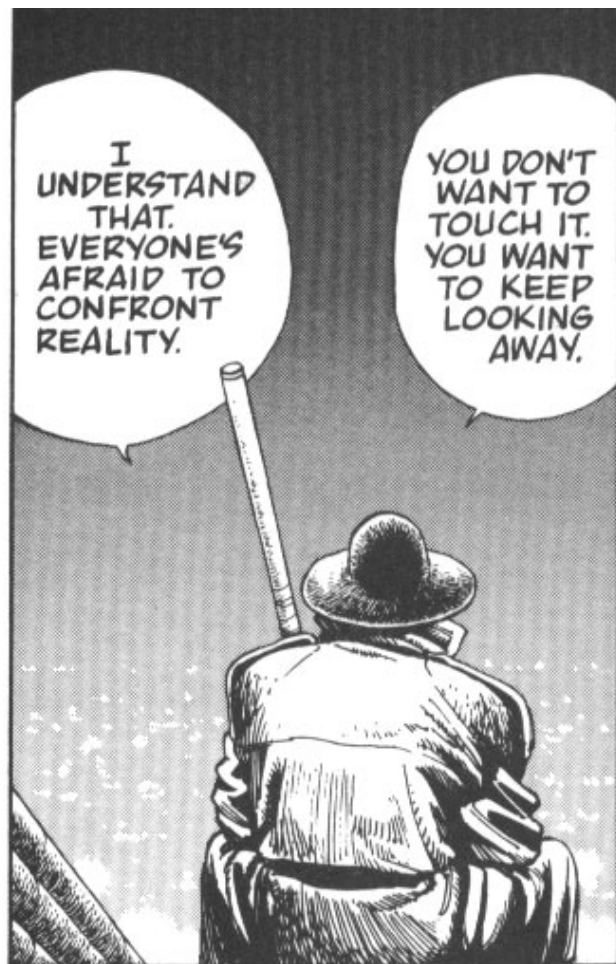
ZURRRR
ploop
ploop
ploop

SPAK

*DNA FINGERPRINTING: A TECHNIQUE OF ANALYZING THE DNA (DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID) IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL.

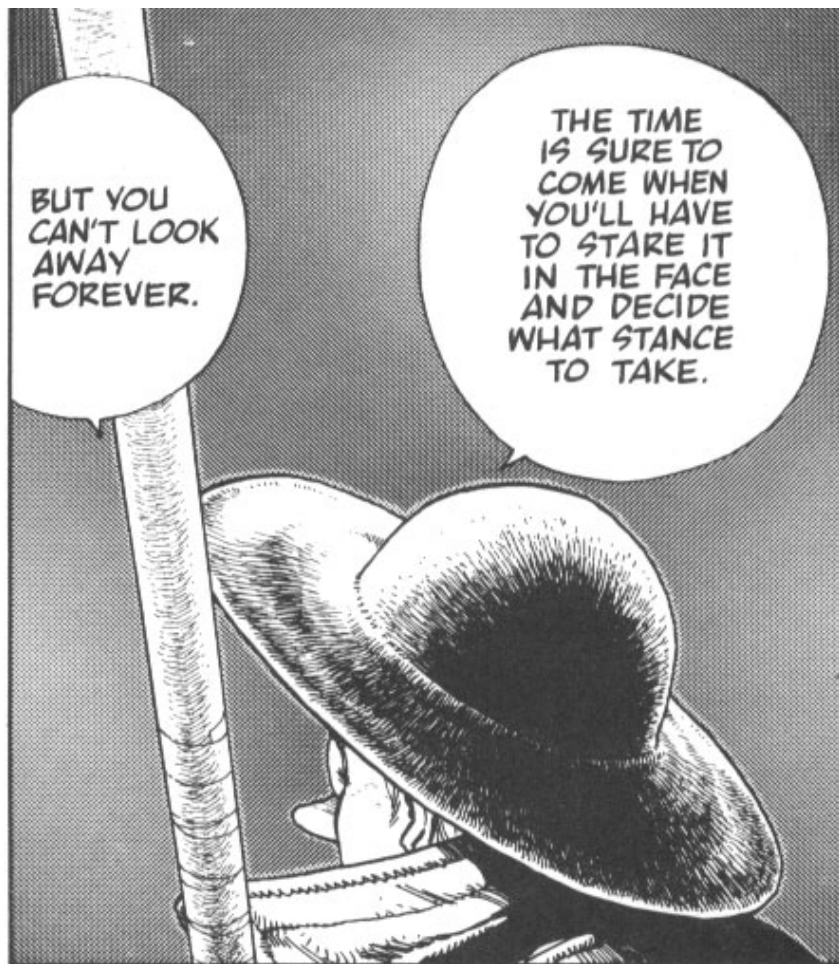






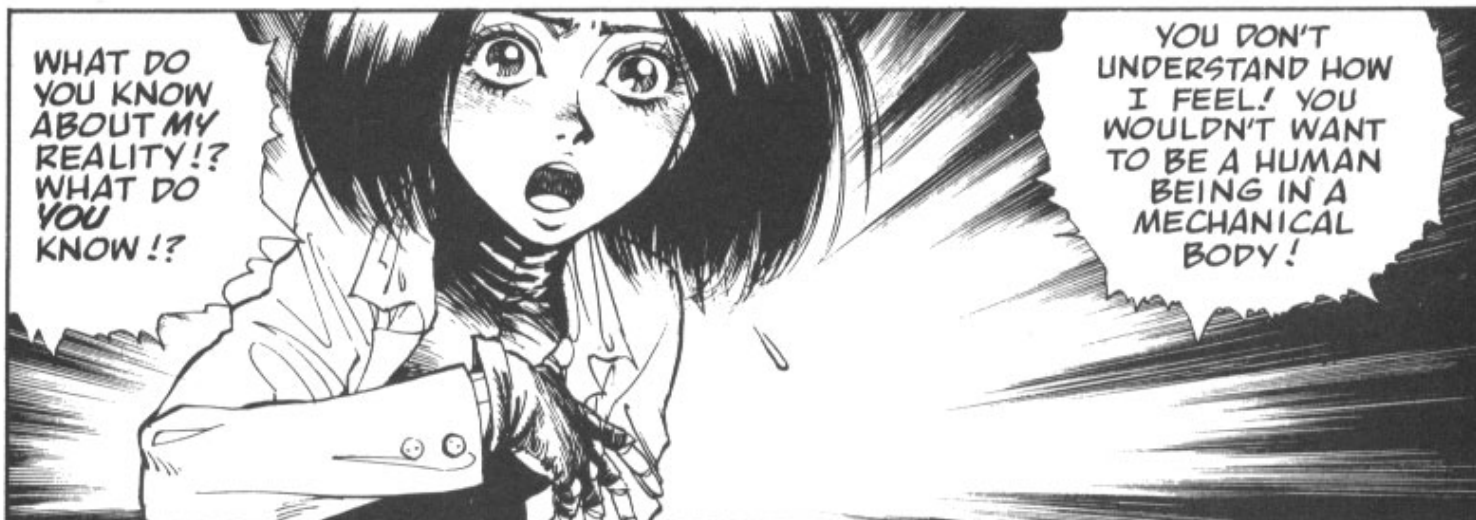
I UNDERSTAND THAT. EVERYONE'S AFRAID TO CONFRONT REALITY.

YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH IT. YOU WANT TO KEEP LOOKING AWAY.



BUT YOU CAN'T LOOK AWAY FOREVER.

THE TIME IS SURE TO COME WHEN YOU'LL HAVE TO STARE IT IN THE FACE AND DECIDE WHAT STANCE TO TAKE.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY REALITY!? WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL! YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A HUMAN BEING IN A MECHANICAL BODY!



BUT THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, ALITA. AND NOW YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY.

WHERE HAS MY BRAVE LITTLE ALITA GONE?



YOU'RE WRONG... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... I'M ONLY HOLDING BACK...







THAT'S A
HELL OF A
GREETING!
ARE YOU
SAYING YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN
THE GREAT
ZAPAN!?

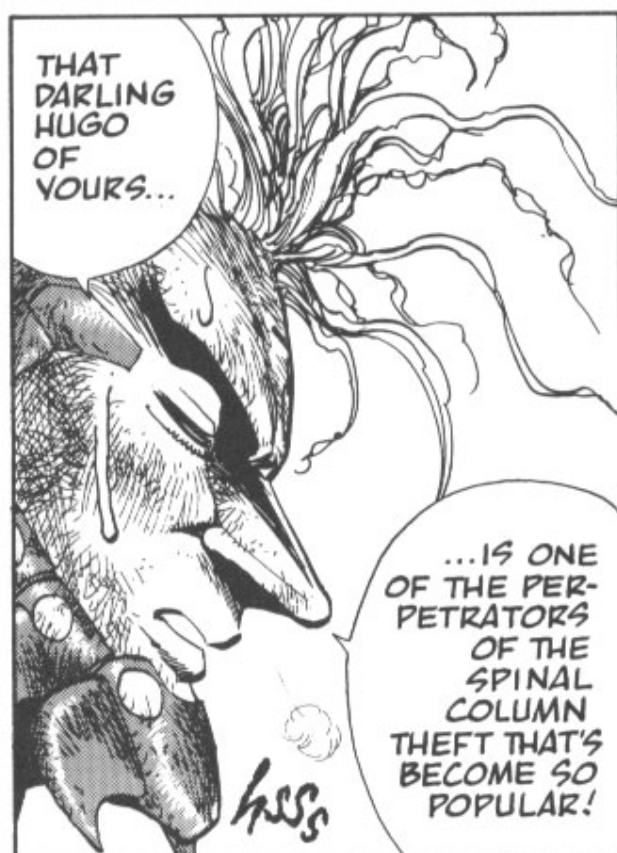
YOU
KNOW...
FROM THE
BRAWL
AT BAR
KANSAS
!



HA HA
OH, NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
MAYBE HE
WAS ONE
OF THAT
RABBLE.



.....
GRRR
W-WELL...NEVER
MIND THAT...I
DIDN'T COME
HERE TO FIGHT
THIS TIME.



THAT
DARLING
HUGO
OF
YOURS...

...IS ONE
OF THE PER-
PETRATORS
OF THE
SPINAL
COLUMN
THEFT THAT'S
BECOME SO
POPULAR!

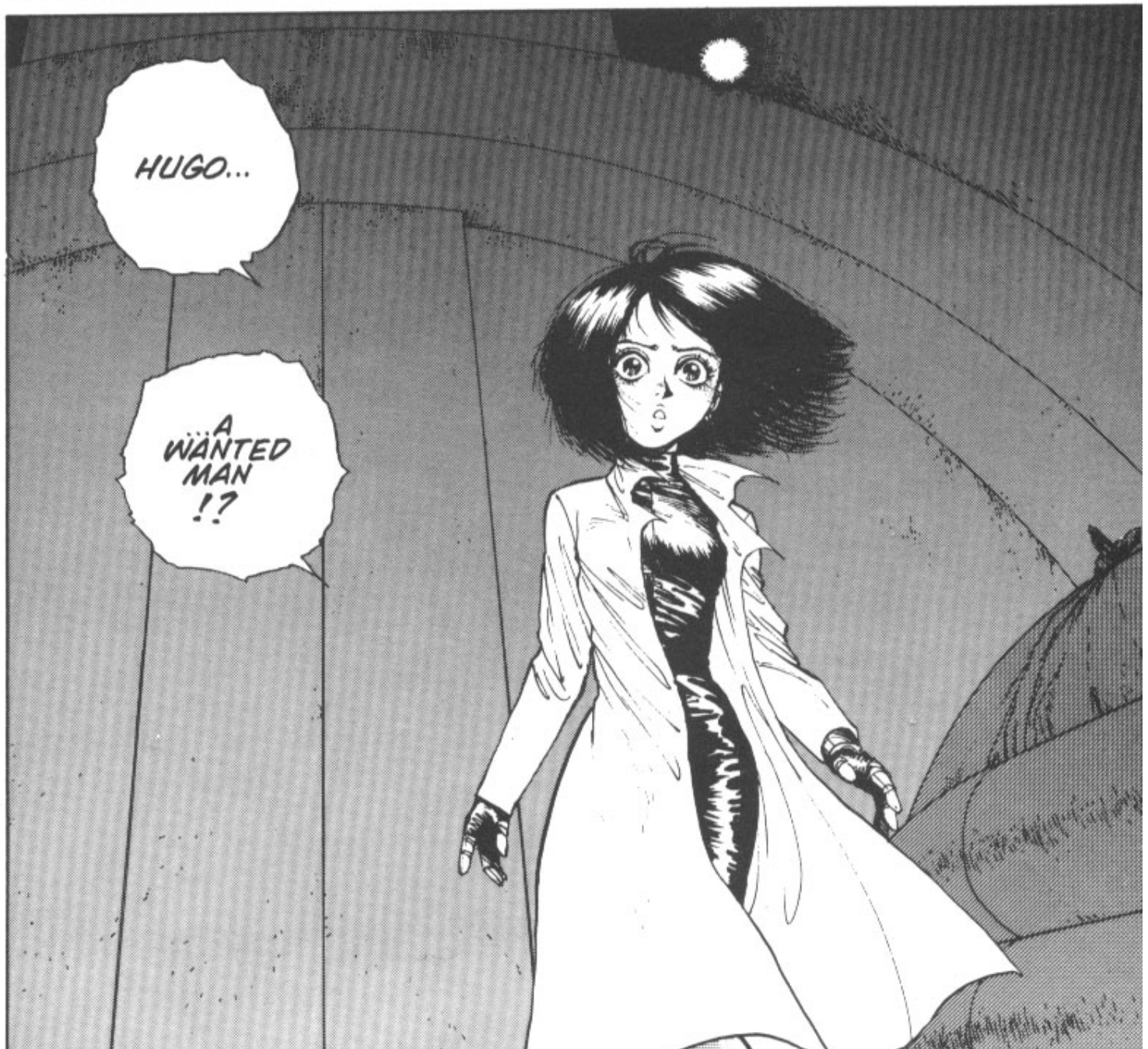


WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING
?



HE HASN'T
APPEARED ON
THE BOUNTY
LIST YET! BUT
THEY'LL BE
ONTO HIM SOON--
AND YOU'RE
SUCH A HOTSHOT
HUNTER-WARRIOR...

...YOU WON'T
BE ABLE
TO PASS
UP THAT
BOUNTY, EH
ALITA!?



HUGO...

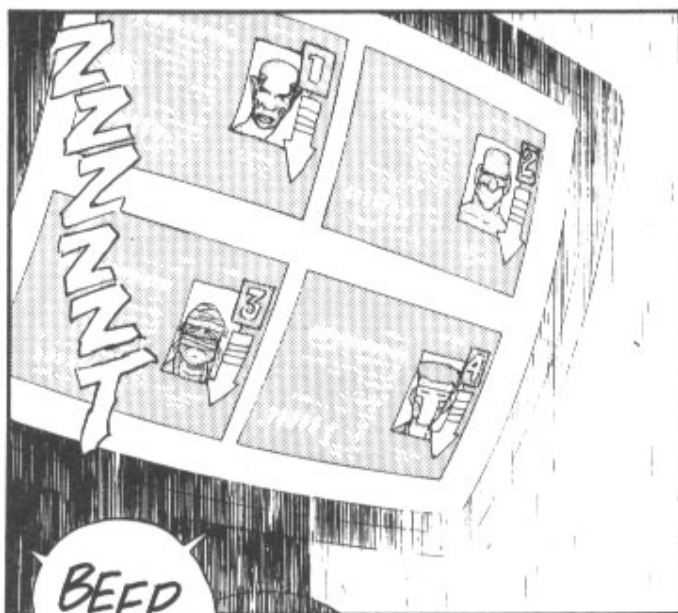
A
WANTED
MAN
!?





BEEP

Today's Bounty
List Update



BEEP

DNA CODE



CRIMINAL NUMBER: 3491625C7

NAME: HUGO

CRIMINALITY: VERTEBRAL COLUMN THEFT
AND
BRAIN MURDER

ARMS: FIRE BOTTLE

BODY: NON CYBORG

DRUG: NONE

NOTE: WOUNDED IN THE LEFT SHOULDER

BOUNTY: **80'000.**



PRINT

7
NUMBER

INSERT
CHIP

1 0

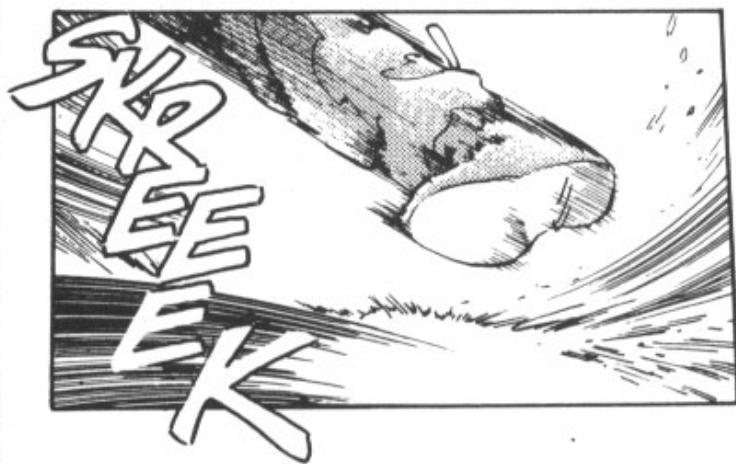
PRINT
OUT

DATA

RAINY DAYS

Struggle 3: fugitive of Dreams



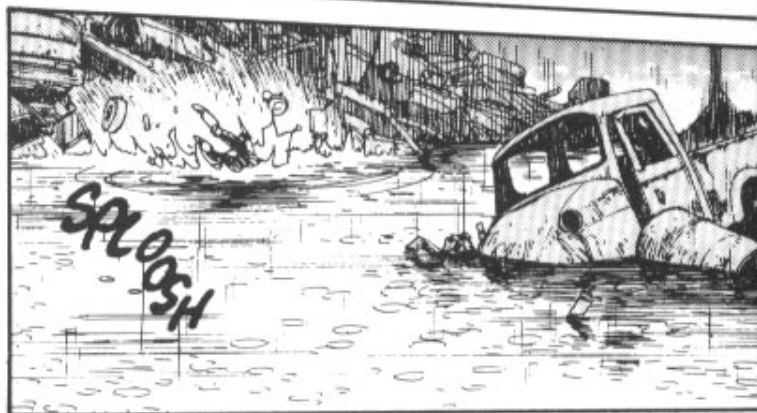
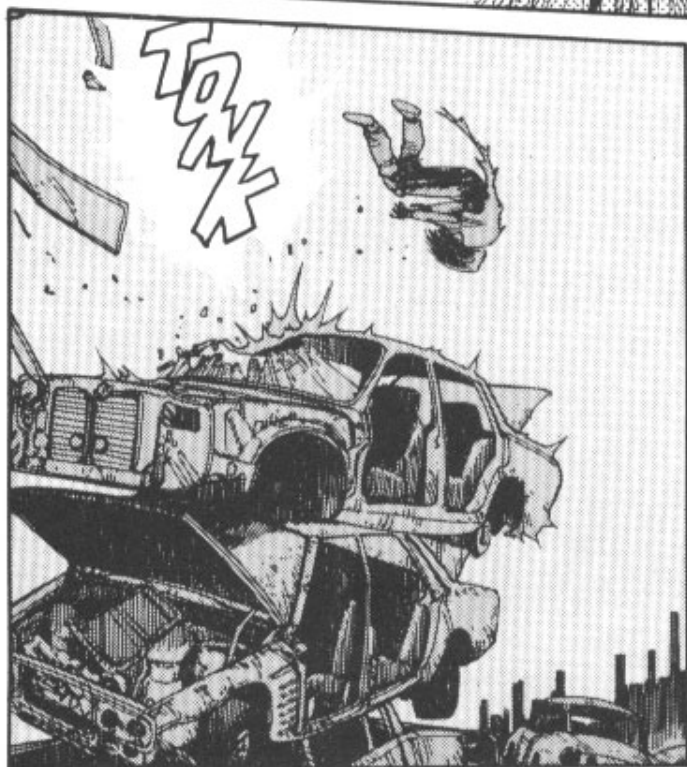






MAYBE I
CAN PROTECT
HUGO--FIGHT
AGAINST
THE OTHER
HUNTER-
WARRIORS!

BUT
WON'T
I RISK
BECOMING
A BOUNTY
MYSELF
?



WELL,
THAT'S
TOUGH
!

HE'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
DEAL!



IDO
WOULD BE
FURIOUS
WITH ME
IF I DID
THAT.

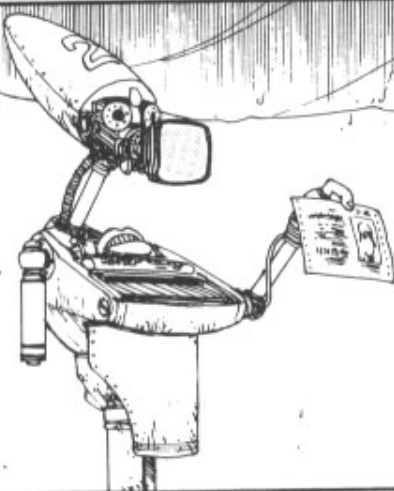


S
A
A
A



CHAKKA
TAKKA

REPORT TO
THE FACTORY
IMMEDIATELY IF
YOU SPOT
THIS ONE.



IT'S
HUGO...

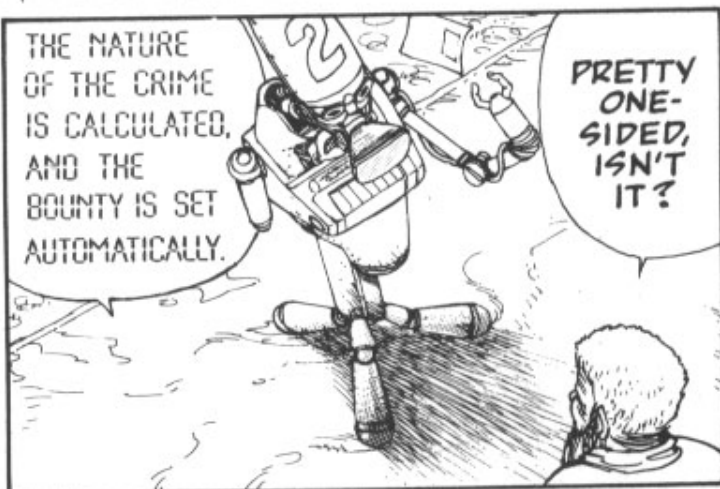
OH,
MY!

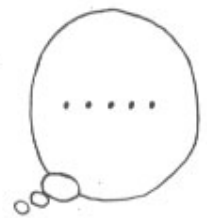
WHY SUCH
A HIGH
BOUNTY?
HE'S ONLY
A BOY!



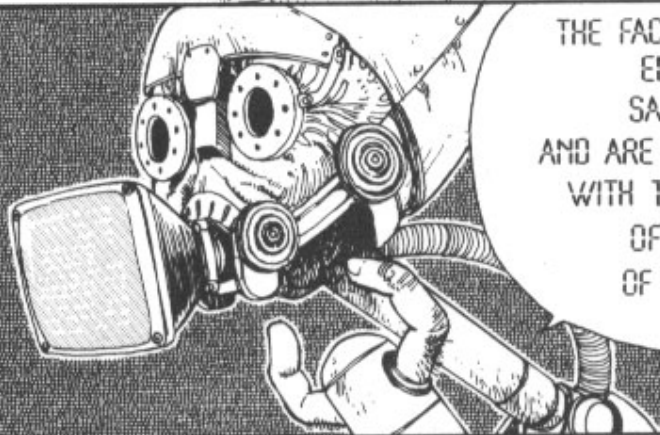
THE NATURE
OF THE CRIME
IS CALCULATED,
AND THE
BOUNTY IS SET
AUTOMATICALLY.

PRETTY
ONE-
SIDED,
ISN'T
IT?

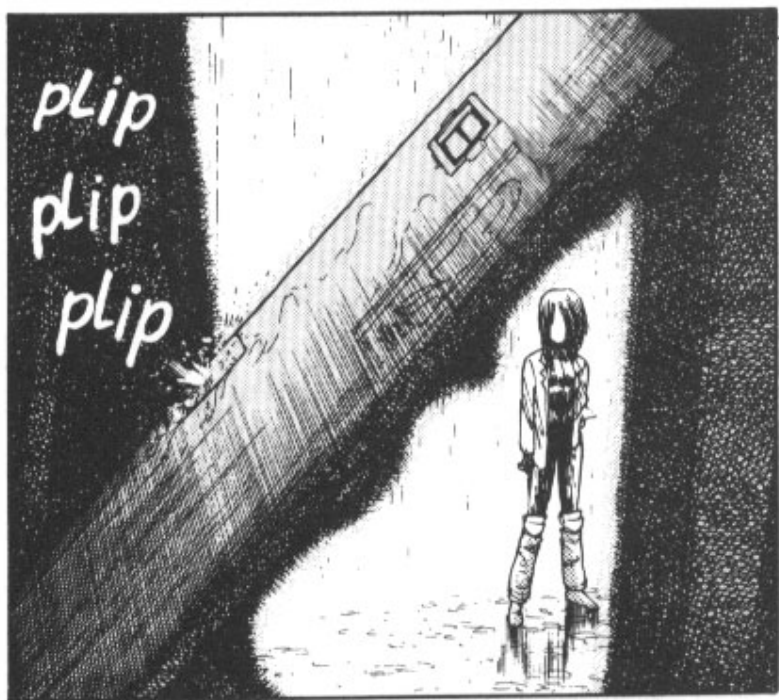




THE PUBLIC
SECURITY SYSTEM
IS NOTHING
MORE THAN A
DEBUGGING ROUTINE
TO ENSURE
THE SMOOTH
OPERATION OF
THE FACTORIES.



THE FACTORIES OPERATE
ENTIRELY FOR THE
SAKE OF TIPHARES
AND ARE NOT CONCERNED
WITH THE DAILY LIVES
OF THE RESIDENTS
OF THE SCRAPYARD.



...BUT
WAIT
!

HE
MIGHT
BE
THERE
!



HOW ABOUT
A BET, DOC?
THINK ALITA
WILL COME
BACK WITH
HER LOVER'S
HEAD?

HEH,
HEH,
HEH...

NAH, I
KNOW BET-
TER THAN
THAT.

AT THIS
RATE, ALITA
WILL JUST
RUN AWAY
WITH THE
KID, THAT'S
ALL.



IS THIS YOUR
IDEA OF FUN,
ZAPAN?
PICKING ON
A LITTLE
GIRL?



YOU
MAKE ME
SICK. I'M
LEAVING!

WHOA,
HOLD IT
THERE...

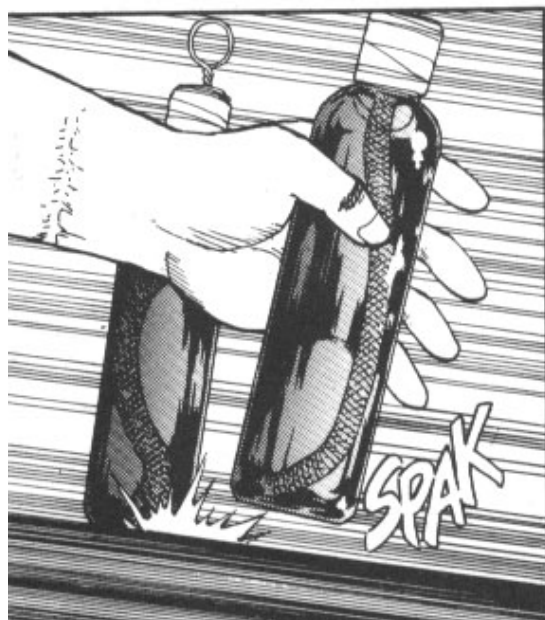


**HANDS
OFF
ME!**









KRAKA
BLAM

HUGO...

SHAK
SHAK SHAK

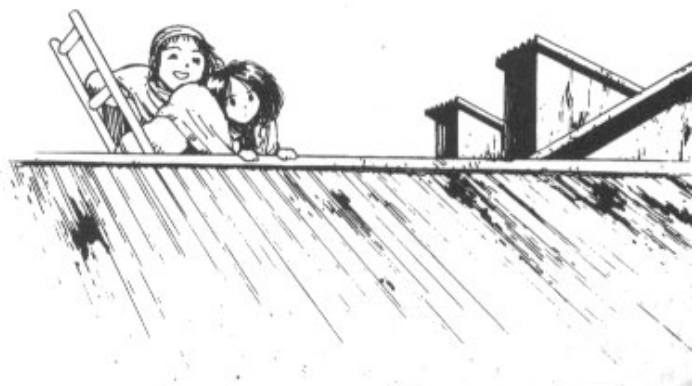
.....!

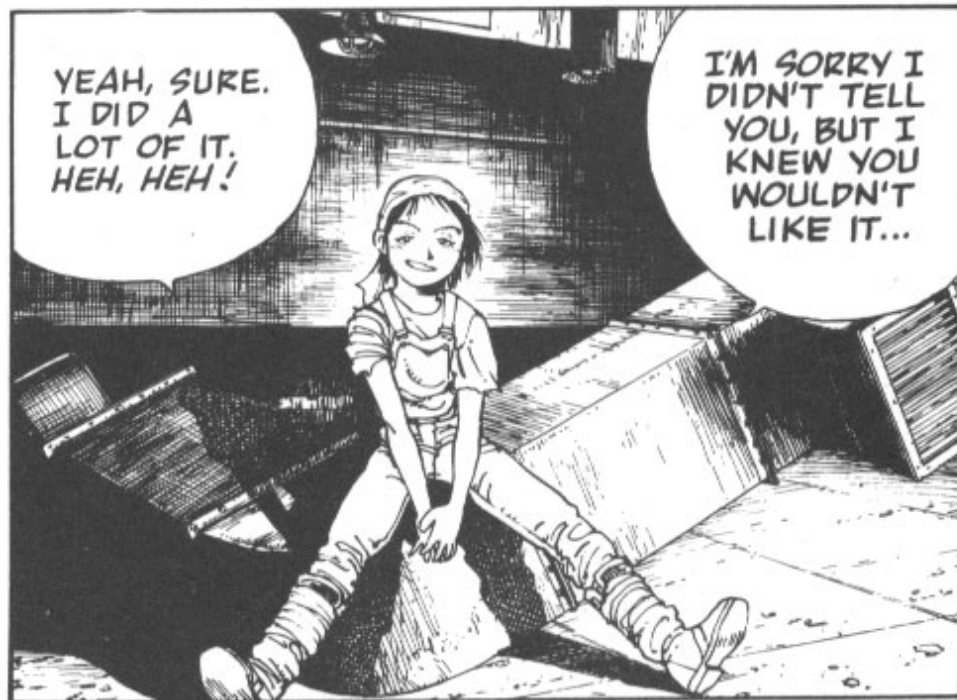
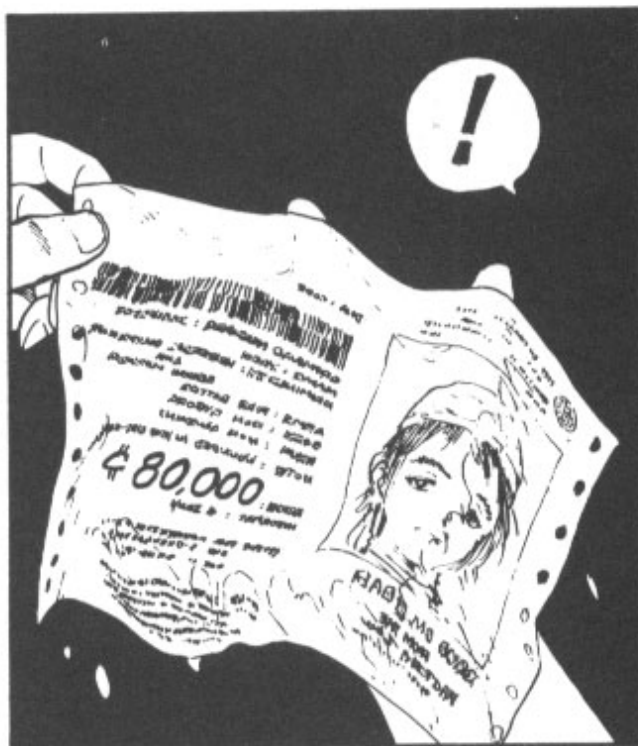
BOOMMM

ALITA
?

I
THOUGHT
THIS IS
WHERE
YOU
WOULD
BE...

...THE
ABANDONED
FACTORY
WHERE I
FIRST MET
YOU.







...AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE I
WAS
RIGHT.



YOU
CAN'T BE
SEEN IN
TOWN
NOW, CAN
YOU?



WHERE
WILL YOU
GO, HUGO?
WHERE
WILL YOU
RUN?



NO, ALITA--
I'M NOT
RUNNING
AWAY.

FOR
BETTER OR
WORSE, I'VE
GOT TO GO
BACK...



W-
WHY?
?



I
HAVEN'T
GIVEN
UP ON
TIPHARES
YET!

I'M GOING
BACK TO
TOWN. I'VE
GOT TO
GET TO
VECTOR'S
PLACE!



THAT'S CRAZY!
YOU WANT TO
GO TO
TIPHARES
SO BAD YOU'D
THROW AWAY
YOUR LIFE!?



YOU'VE NEVER
UNDERSTOOD, NO
MATTER HOW HARD
YOU TRIED. I DON'T
JUST WANT TO GET
OUT OF THIS STINK-
ING PLACE!

THIS IS A
BATTLE! A BATTLE
BETWEEN
ME AND THE
SCRAPYARD!



THE SCRAPYARD
HAS ALWAYS
TRIED TO ROB
ME--TRIED TO
STEAL EVERY
ONE OF MY
DREAMS...

...TRIED
TO TAKE EVERY
OUNCE OF MY
PRIDE! IF I
LET GO NOW,
I'LL BE JUST
LIKE THE REST
OF THE SCRAP.



.....
SW
AA
AA
A



BUT I'M
NOT
SCRAP,
ALITA
!

EVEN IF
IT'S A STUPID
DREAM, HOLDING
ON TO IT IS
MY ONLY PROOF
OF WHO I
AM!

IF I RUN
AWAY NOW, ALL
THAT I'VE BEEN--
ALL THAT I'VE
TRIED TO BE--
WILL BECOME
A LIE.



COME
NIGHTFALL,
I'M OUTTA
HERE.

YOU'D BEST
BE ON YOUR
WAY...BEFORE
YOU GET
MIXED UP
IN THIS.

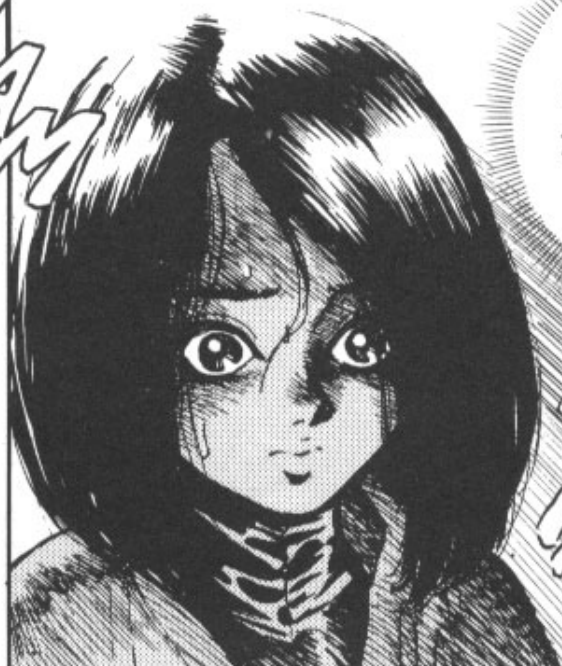
K
R
A
K
A
B
L
A
M



OH!

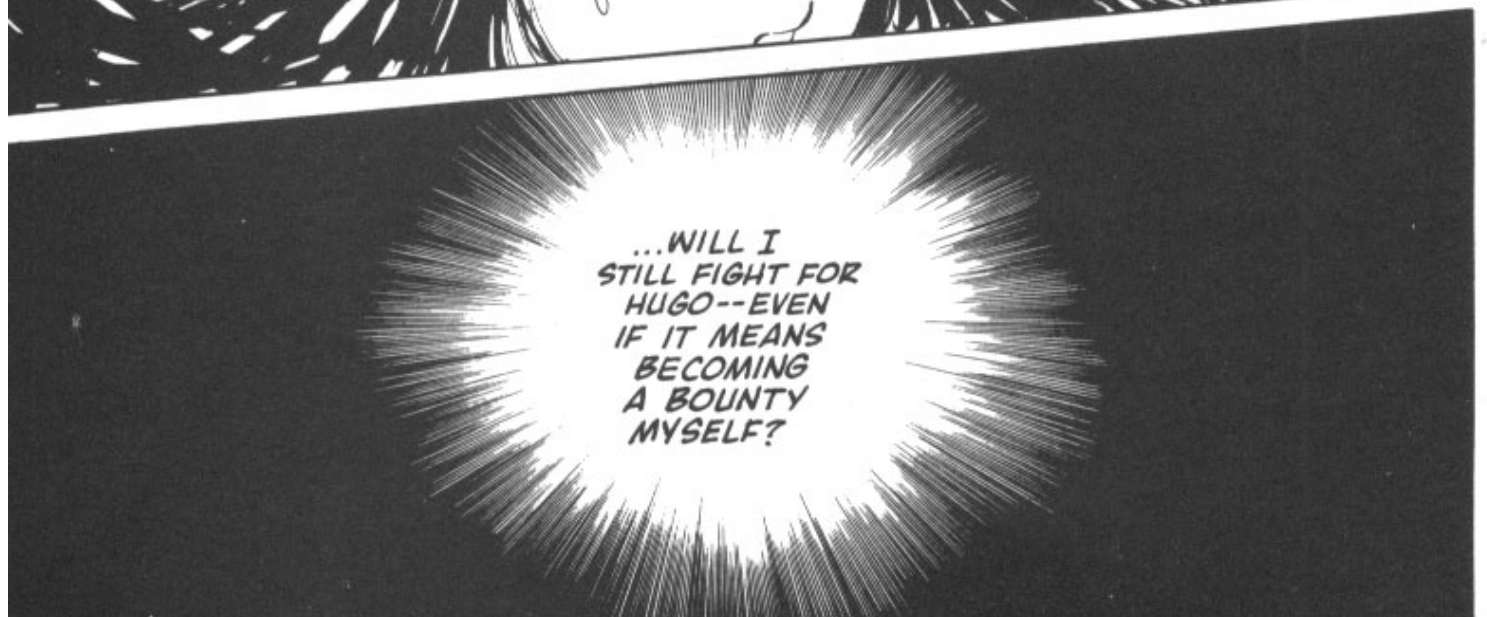
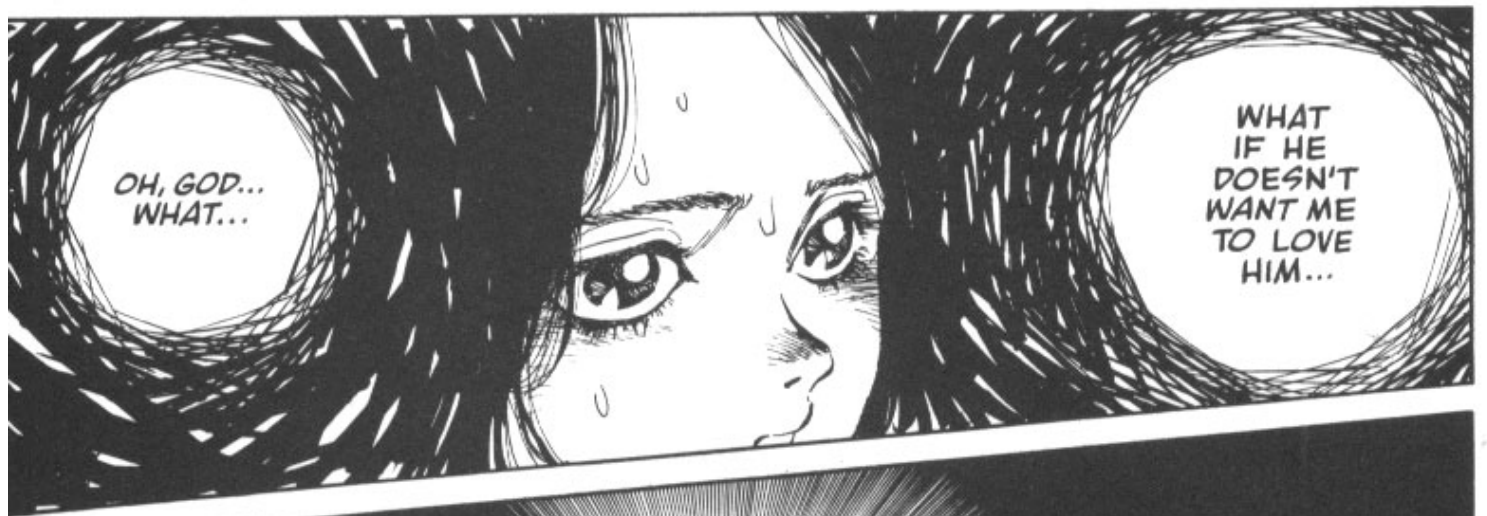


SEE
YOU
LATER
!



H-HE DOESN'T
KNOW! I HAVE
TO TELL HIM...
TELL HIM HOW
MUCH I CARE
FOR HIM...

K
A
F
A
S
H





OR
MAYBE
I'LL...



...MAYBE
I'LL JUST KILL
HUGO WITH
MY OWN
HANDS...

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
NONSENSE
FOR? GO
HOME...

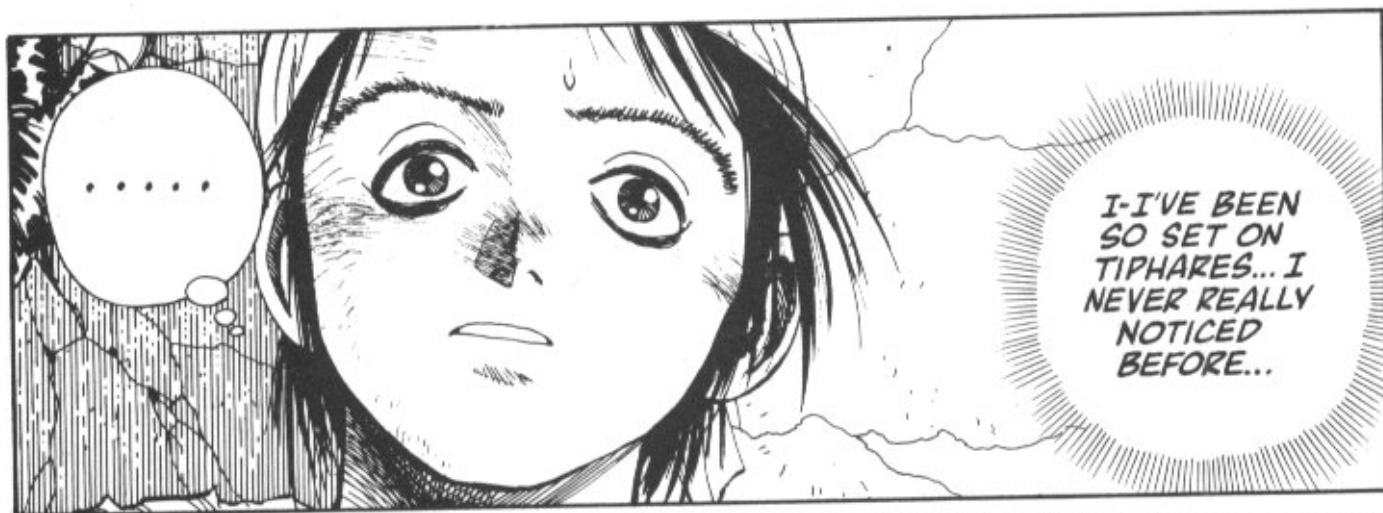
Heh
Heh

ANSWER
ME!

FWAM

IF I
WERE
TO KILL
HUGO...

...I'D
WANT
TO DIE,
TOO!







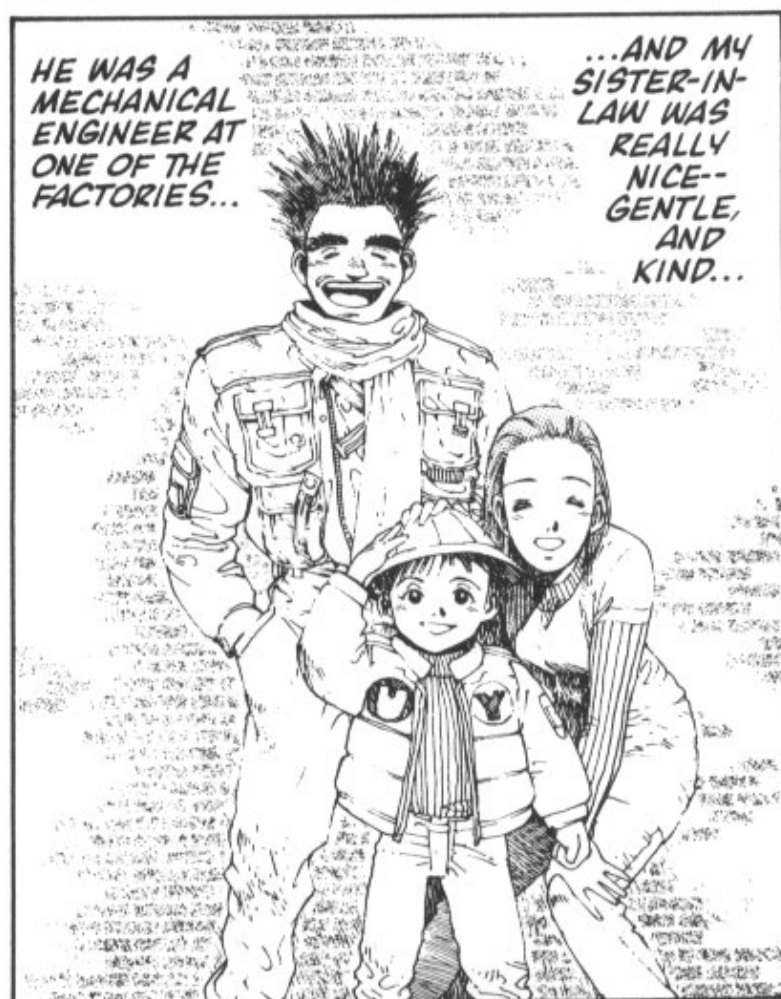
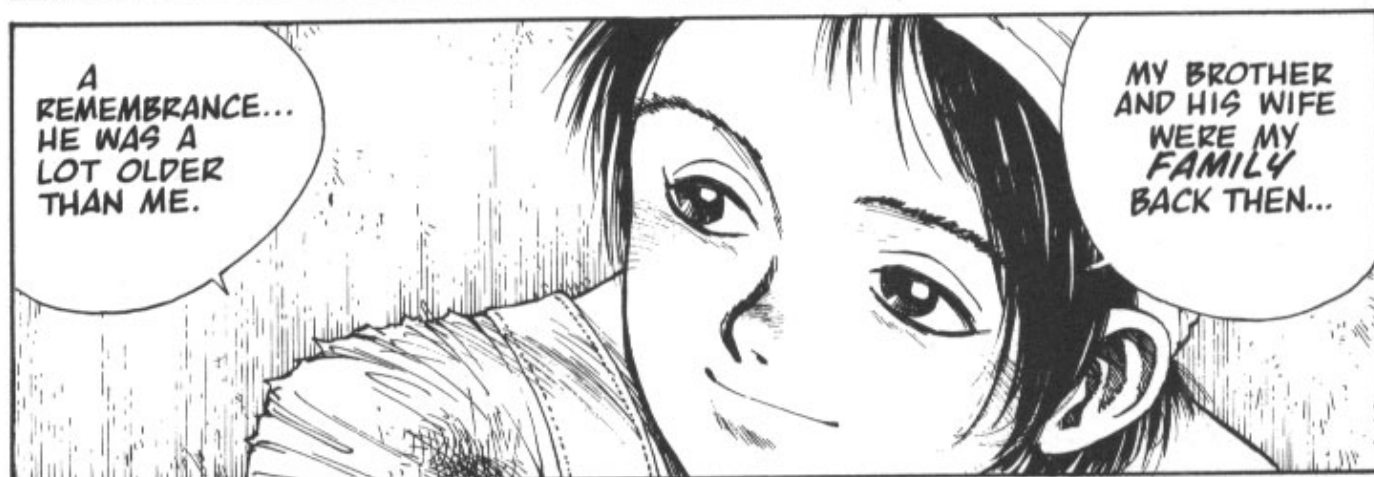
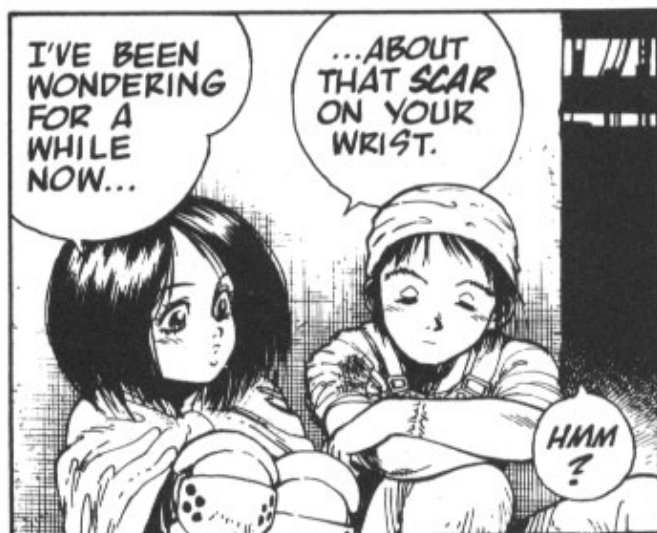
PISHA
PLISHA

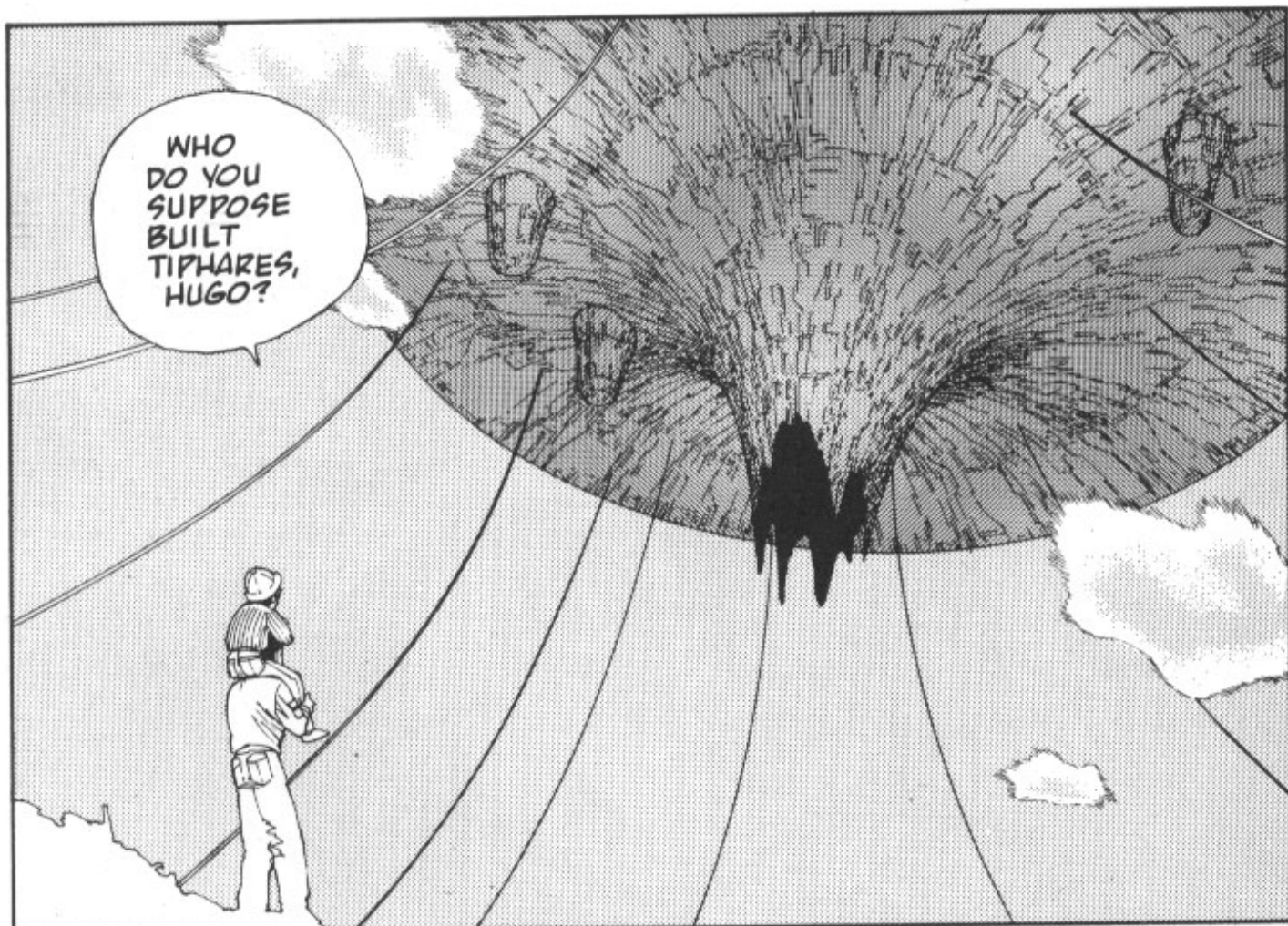
THAT--THAT
TASTED LIKE...
ELECTRICITY...

...IT TINGLED--
THE WAY IT
DOES WHEN
YOU LICK A
BATTERY.

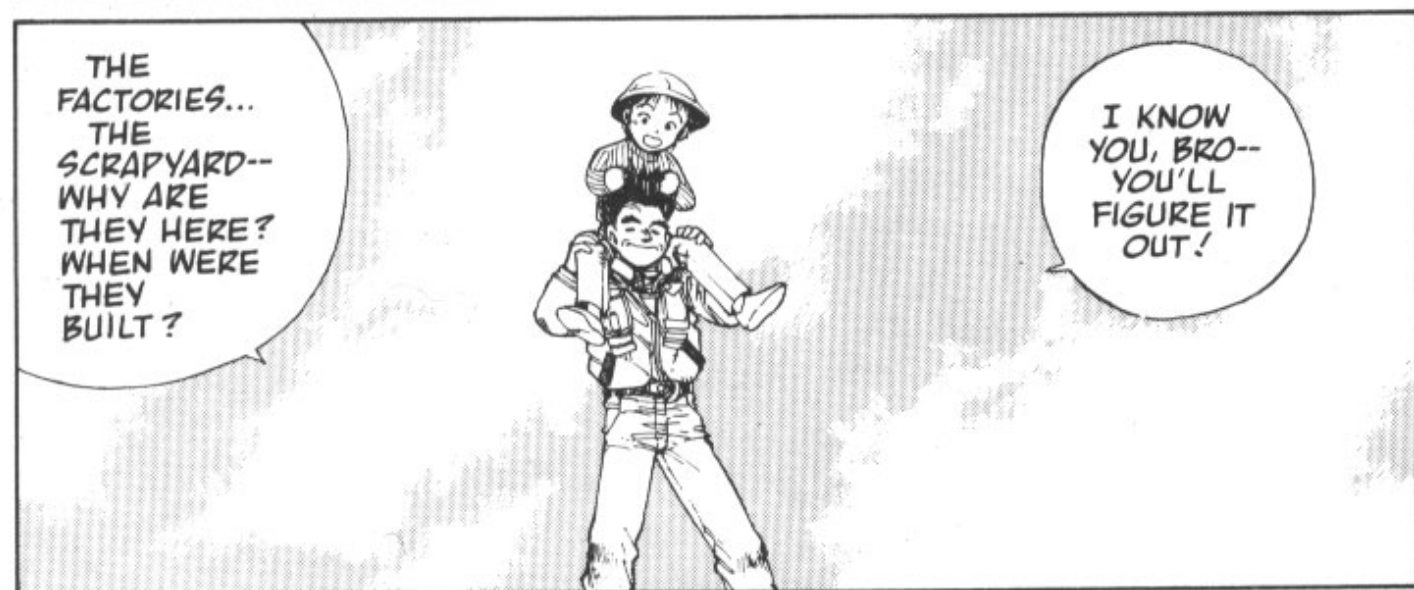
THERE
MUST BE A
CHARGE
BETWEEN
US, HUGO...

...OR MAYBE
IT'S THE LIGHTNING.
PEOPLE CAN CATCH
A SPARK ON DAYS
LIKE THIS...





WHO
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
BUILT
TIPHARES,
HUGO?



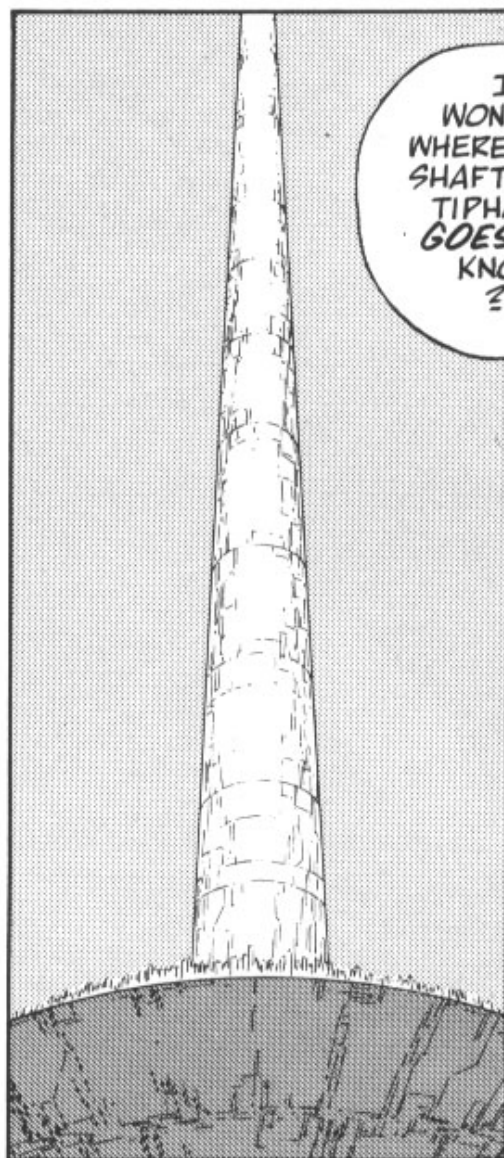
THE
FACTORIES...
THE
SCRAPYARD--
WHY ARE
THEY HERE?
WHEN WERE
THEY
BUILT?

I KNOW
YOU, BRO--
YOU'LL
FIGURE IT
OUT!



IT'S NOT
THAT SIMPLE,
HUGO. NO
RECORDS
OF THE
PAST EXIST
DOWN HERE
AT ALL.

I'M NOT SURE
THE FACTORIES--
THE FLOATING
CITY-- WANT US
TO KNOW...



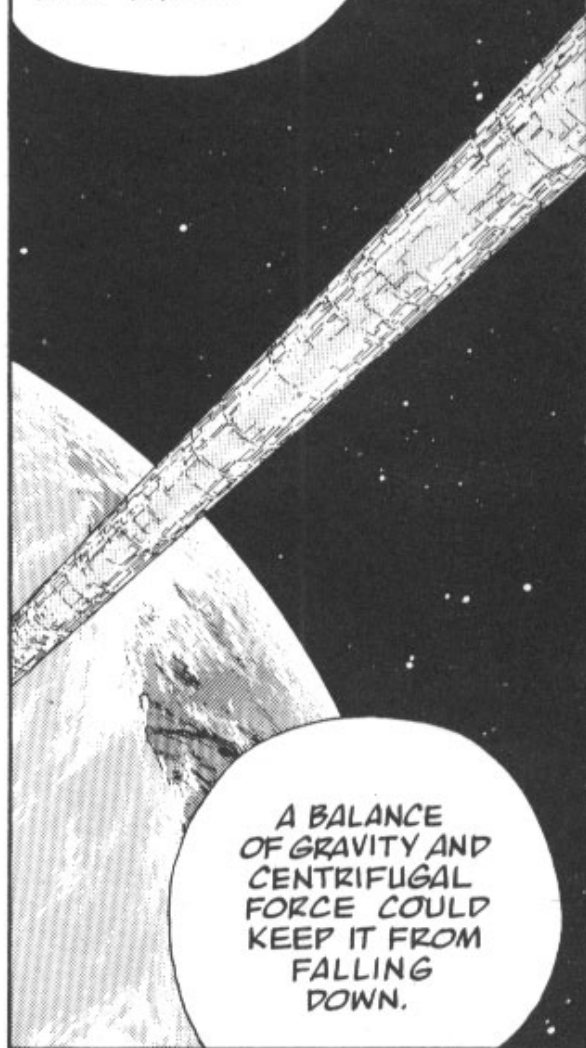
I
WONDER
WHERE THE
SHAFT ATOP
TIPHARES
GOES, YOU
KNOW
?

HOW
COME IT
DON'T FALL
OVER
?



HMM. THE WAY
I FIGURE IT, THE
THE SHAFT ISN'T
STANDING ON
TIPHARES--
TIPHARES
IS *HANGING*
FROM THE
SHAFT.

IT PROBABLY
EXTENDS BEYOND
THE ATMOSPHERE
INTO SPACE.

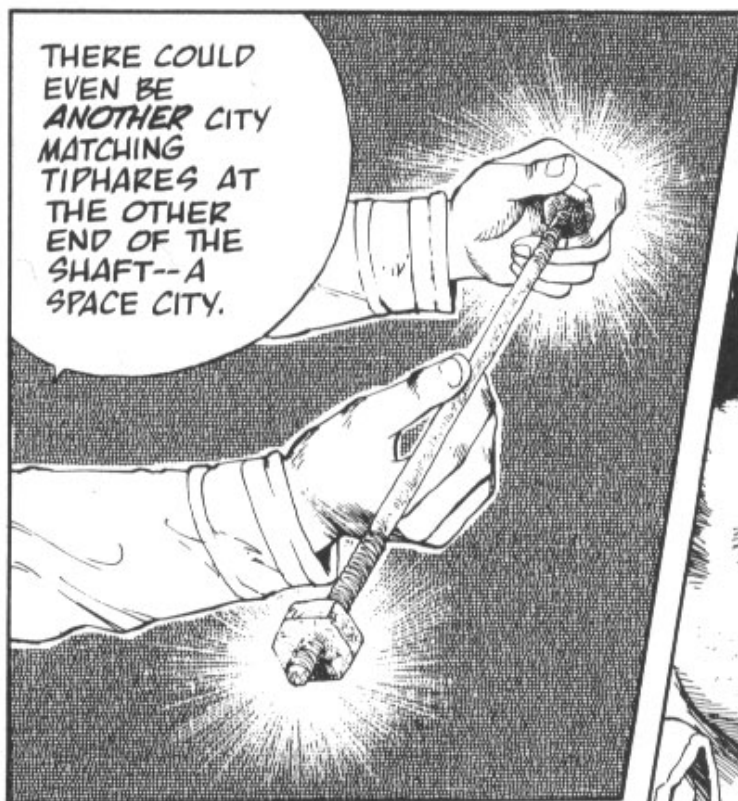


A BALANCE
OF GRAVITY AND
CENTRIFUGAL
FORCE COULD
KEEP IT FROM
FALLING
DOWN.



WOW
!

THERE COULD
EVEN BE
ANOTHER CITY
MATCHING
TIPHARES AT
THE OTHER
END OF THE
SHAFT--A
SPACE CITY.



A WHOLE
NEW WORLD
BEYOND
IMAGINATION--
FLOATING
OUT IN
SPACE!



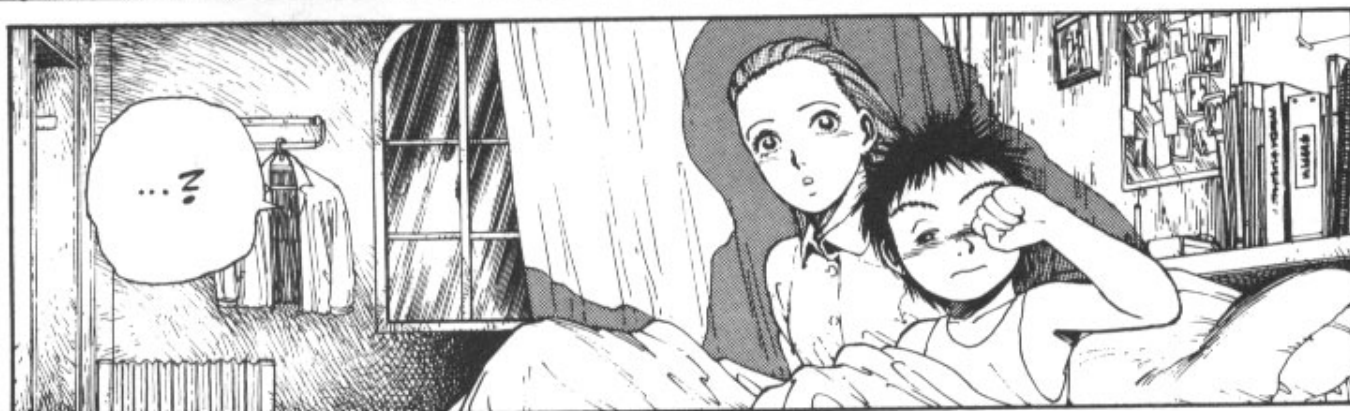
ONE NIGHT
MY BROTHER
SUDDENLY
JUMPED OUT
OF BED.

TO
M
P!

I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND
!!

NANA!
HUGO!

I'M
GOING
TO
FLY!



HE HAD THIS
NOTION OF
BUILDING A
MASSIVE
BALLOON...

SO WE
LOAD THE
GONDOLA WITH
SEVERAL
WEEKS OF
FOOD...

WE WON'T BE
ABLE TO GO
ALL THE WAY TO
SPACE, BUT WE'LL
HAVE A VANTAGE
POINT TO CHECK
OUT TIPHARES
AND THE SHAFT
AT CLOSE
RANGE.

I'LL
SOLVE THE
MYSTERIES
OF THE
WORLD
!

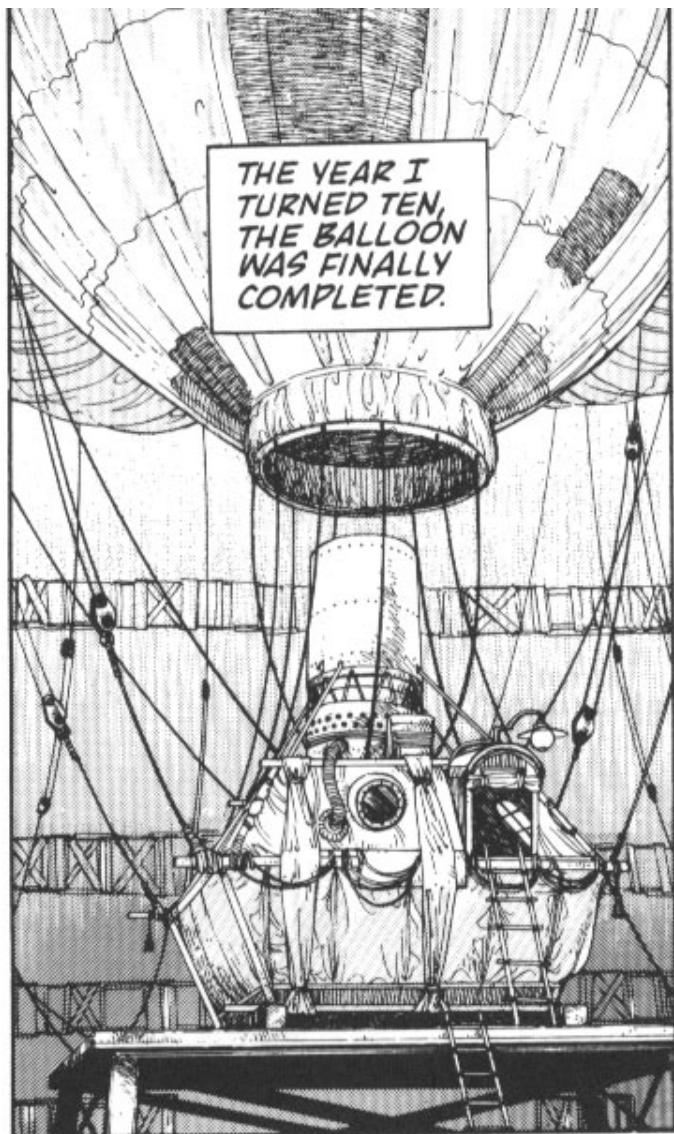
RADICAL
!!

BUT DEAR, IT'S
A VIOLATION OF
FACTORY LAW
TO BUILD OR
USE FLYING
DEVICES!

NO PROBLEM.
WE'LL BE SO
FAR GONE, EVEN
THE HUNTER
WARRIORS WON'T
BE ABLE TO
CHASE US!

KEEP
IT JUST
BETWEEN
US--OKAY,
LITTLE
HUGO
?





THE YEAR I
TURNED TEN,
THE BALLOON
WAS FINALLY
COMPLETED.



THE
WEATHER'S
GOOD, AND
THERE ISN'T
MUCH WIND.
LET'S LEAVE
TONIGHT!

RIGHT
ON!



HUGO...



...WOULD
YOU GO TO
TOWN TO
RUN AN
ERRAND
FOR ME?

HUH?
BUT--



PLEASE.
WOULD
YOU?

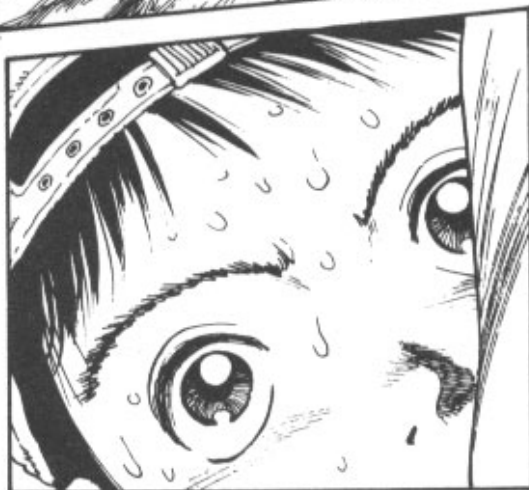
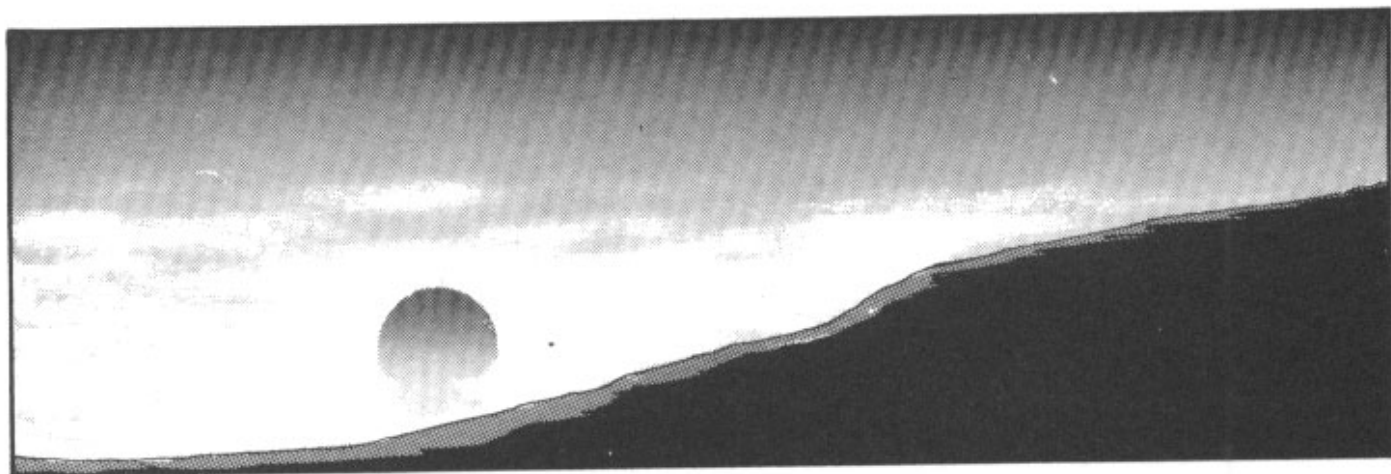


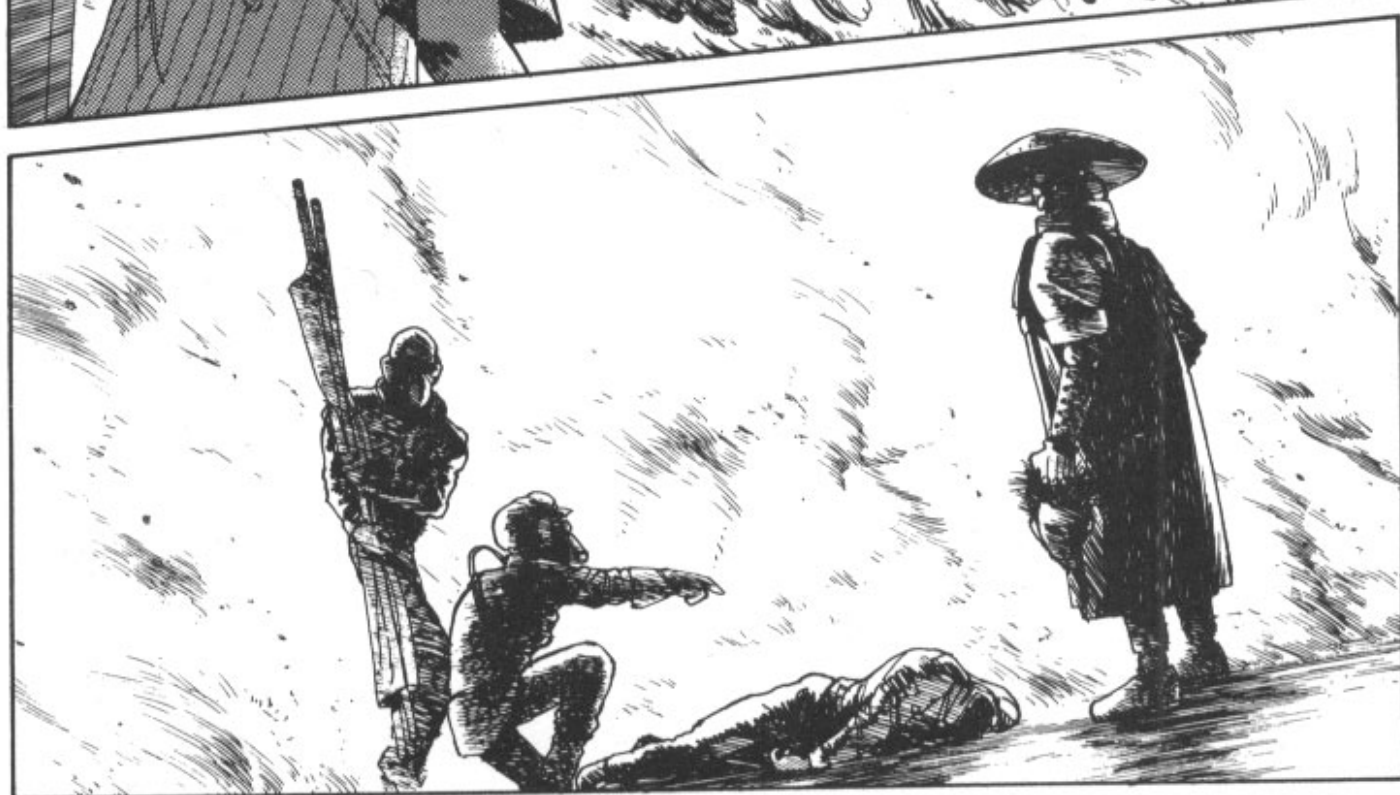
..... *hmmph* OKAY.

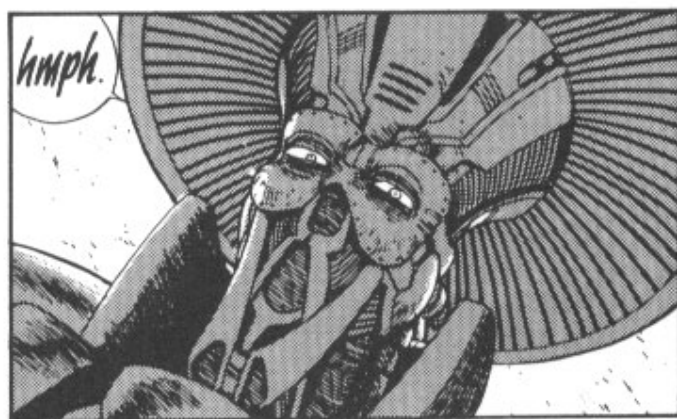
SOMETHING
WAS GOING
ON. I WAS
SURE OF IT.



YOU BETTER
NOT LEAVE
ME BEHIND,
THOUGH!







THAT'S
WHEN I
KNEW.



MY SISTER-
IN-LAW HAD
BETRAYED HIM!
SHE HAD SOLD
MY BROTHER
TO A HUNTER-
WARRIOR!

WAH!

WAH
HH!
H!

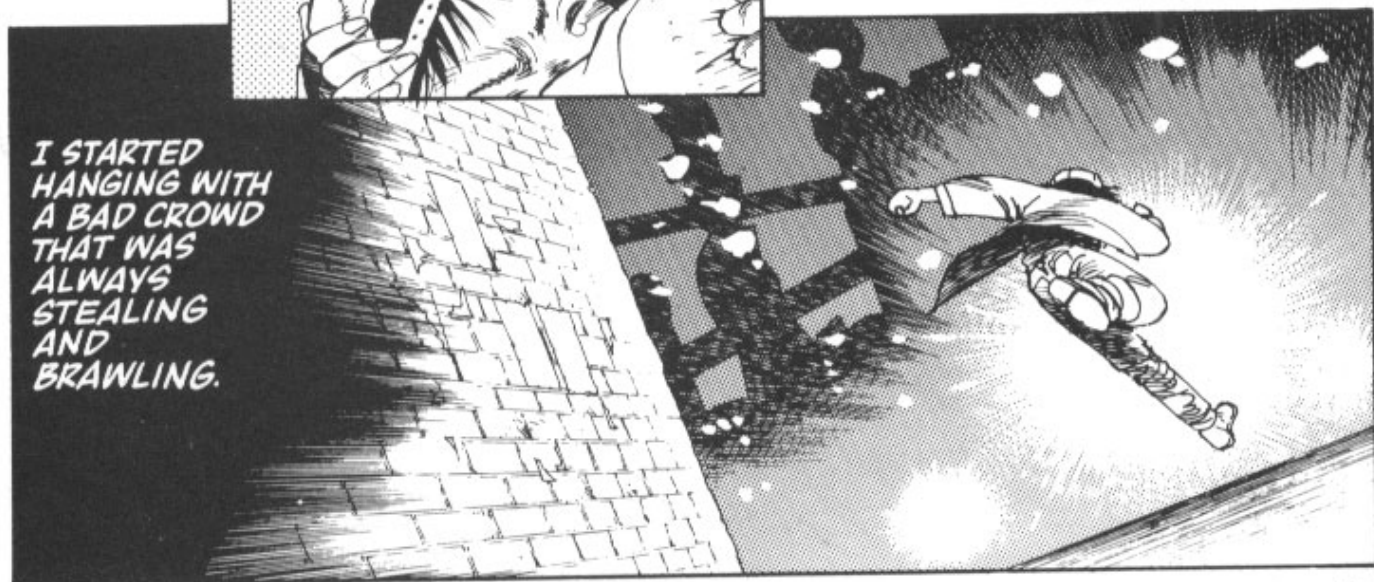


NANA TRIED
TO RAISE
ME AFTER
THAT, BUT
I COULDN'T
TRUST HER...



...NOT AFTER
WHAT SHE'D DONE.
I--I RAN AWAY
FROM HOME.

I STARTED
HANGING WITH
A BAD CROWD
THAT WAS
ALWAYS
STEALING
AND
BRAWLING.



THEN ONE
DAY, TWO
YEARS
LATER...

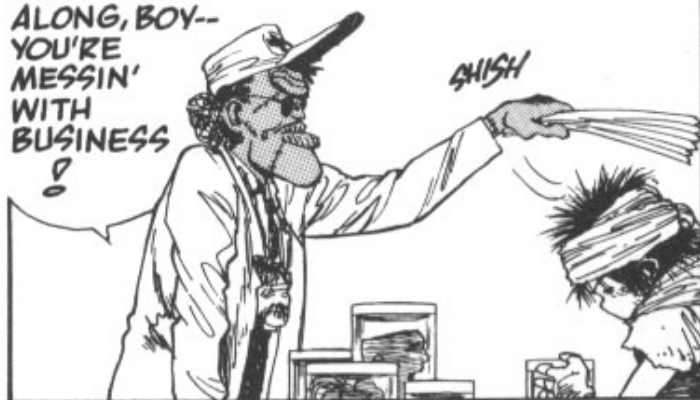


THE DISTINCTIVE
SHAPE OF THE
NAILS... THE
LOCATION OF
THE MOLE AND
THE LITTLE SCAR--
UNMISTAKABLY
MY BIG BROTHER'S
HAND.

IT WAS
ALMOST TOO
MUCH TO TAKE--
THE SUDDEN
RUSH OF
MEMORIES...



NOW GIT
ALONG, BOY--
YOU'RE
MESSIN'
WITH
BUSINESS
!

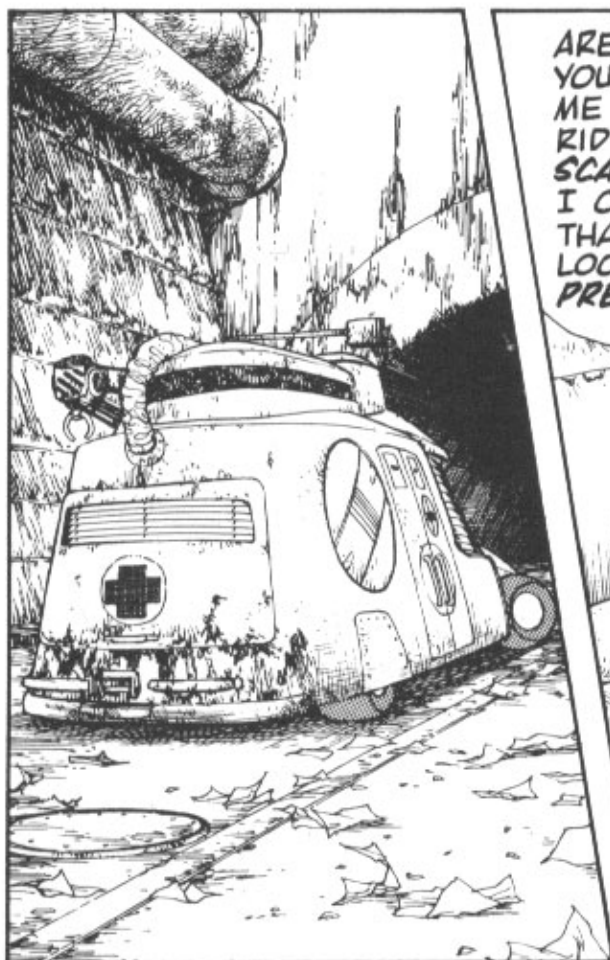
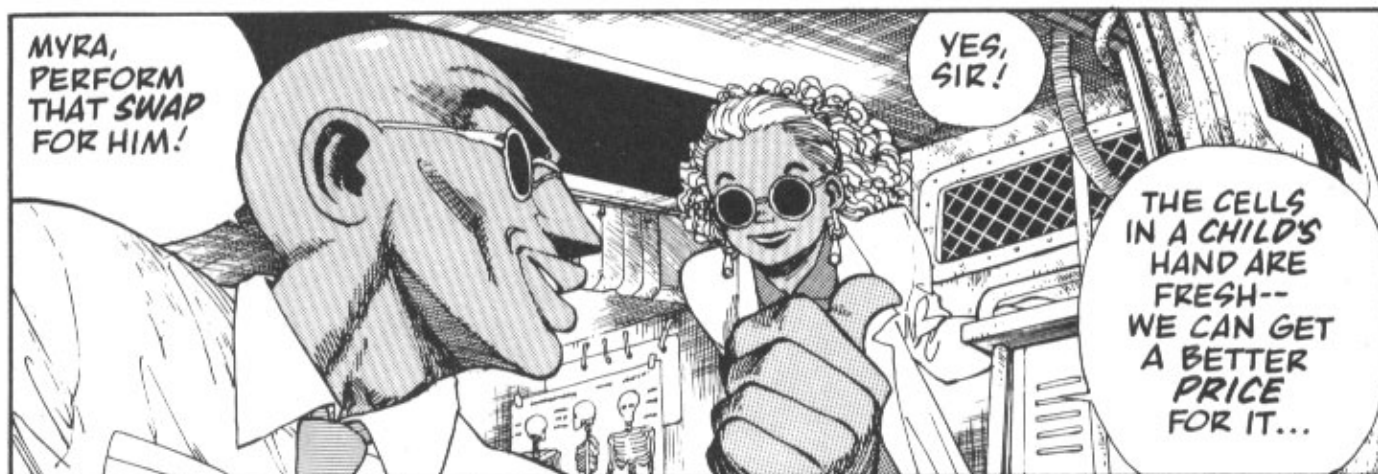


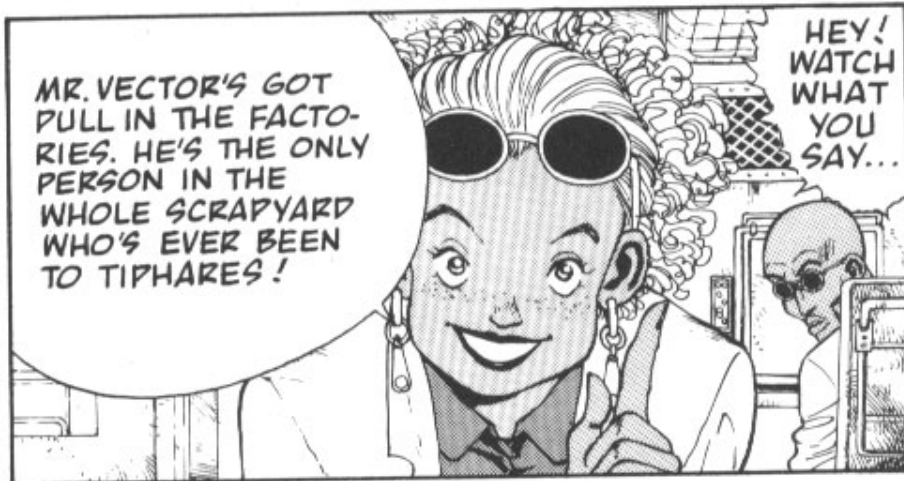
HEY,
MISTER...
!



TRADE ME
THIS HAND
FOR MY
RIGHT
HAND!



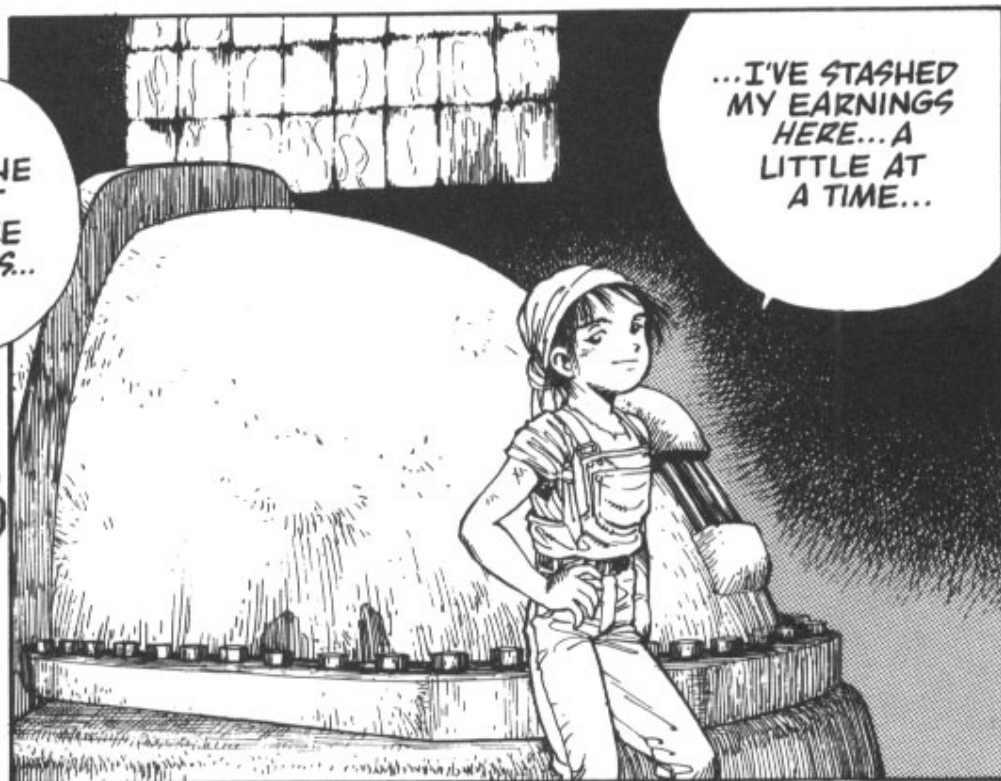






SO,
FOR THE
PAST
THREE
YEARS...

RMB
RMB



...I'VE STASHED
MY EARNINGS
HERE... A
LITTLE AT
A TIME...



NINE AND
A HALF
MILLION
CHIPS--

--ANOTHER
FIVE HUNDRED
THOUSAND
AND I'M
THERE.



WHAT'S
YOUR
SISTER-
IN-LAW
DOING
NOW?

DON'T KNOW--
PROBABLY
CAUGHT UP
WITH SOME
OTHER GUY
SOMEWHERE.

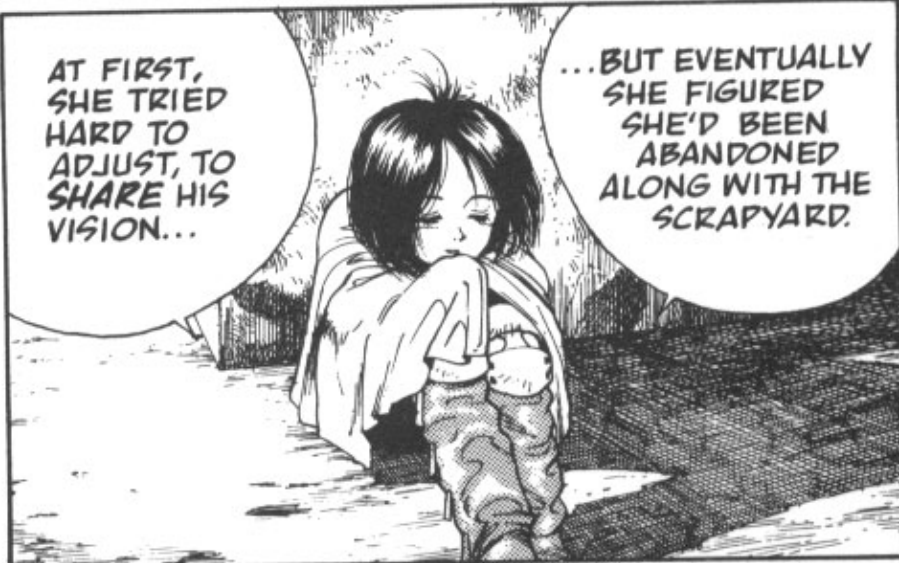


I--I THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW MUST HAVE FELT.

IF THE PERSON I LOVED WAS MORE ATTRACTED TO SOME FAR AWAY PLACE THAN TO ME... I'D FEEL JEALOUS.



HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?



AT FIRST, SHE TRIED HARD TO ADJUST, TO SHARE HIS VISION...

...BUT EVENTUALLY SHE FIGURED SHE'D BEEN ABANDONED ALONG WITH THE SCRAPYARD.



AND SO...SHE KILLED HIM.

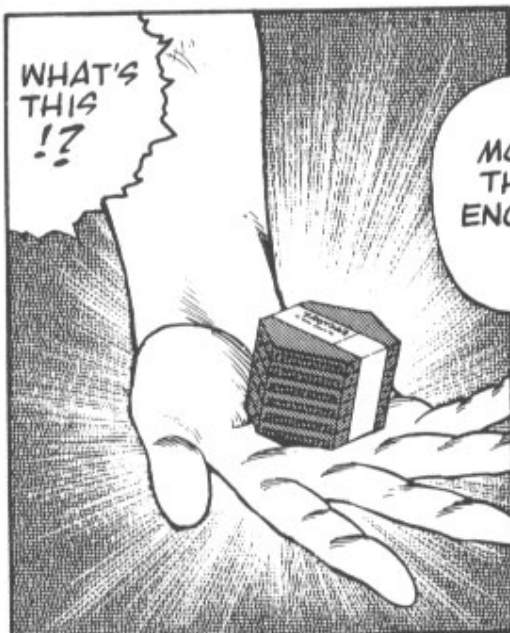


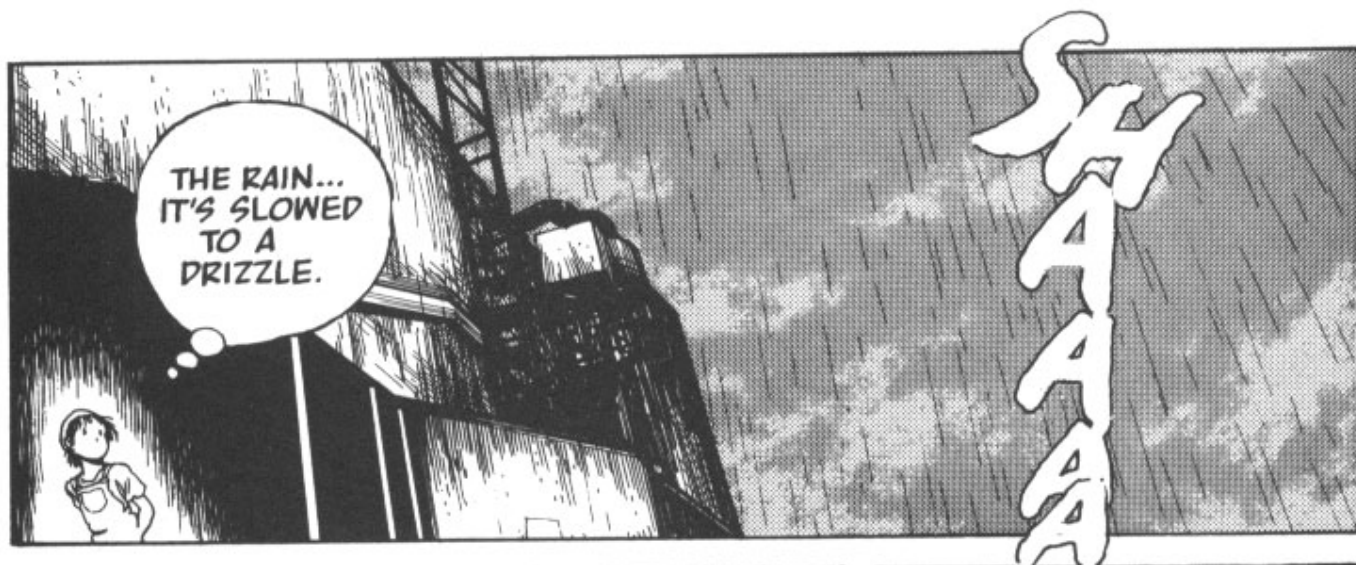
HA, HA...



...YOU'VE GOT
NO CHOICE
BUT TO DO
ME IN RIGHT
HERE, EH?
HA, HA!







YOUR FAMILY
JUST SEEMS
TO FALL
RIGHT INTO
MY HANDS!



YOU'RE
THE
ONE...!?

SKLISH



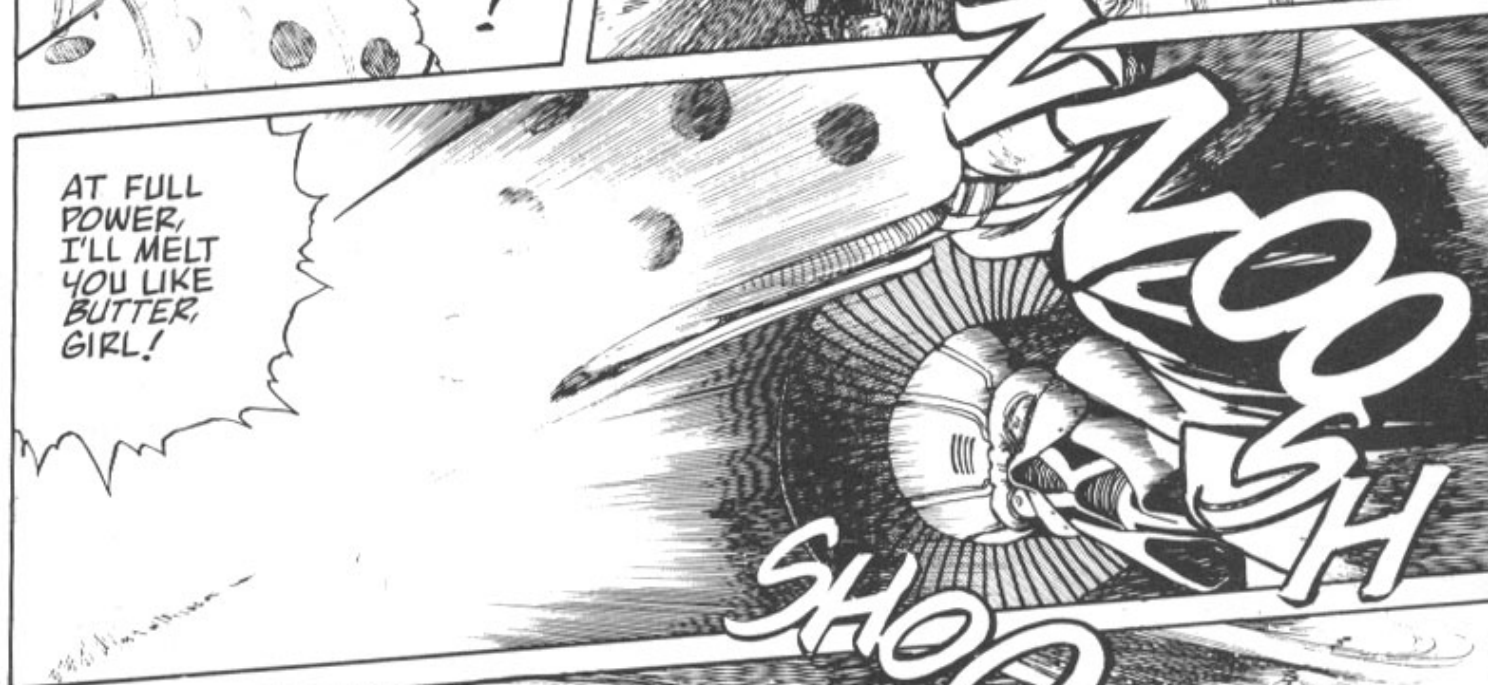






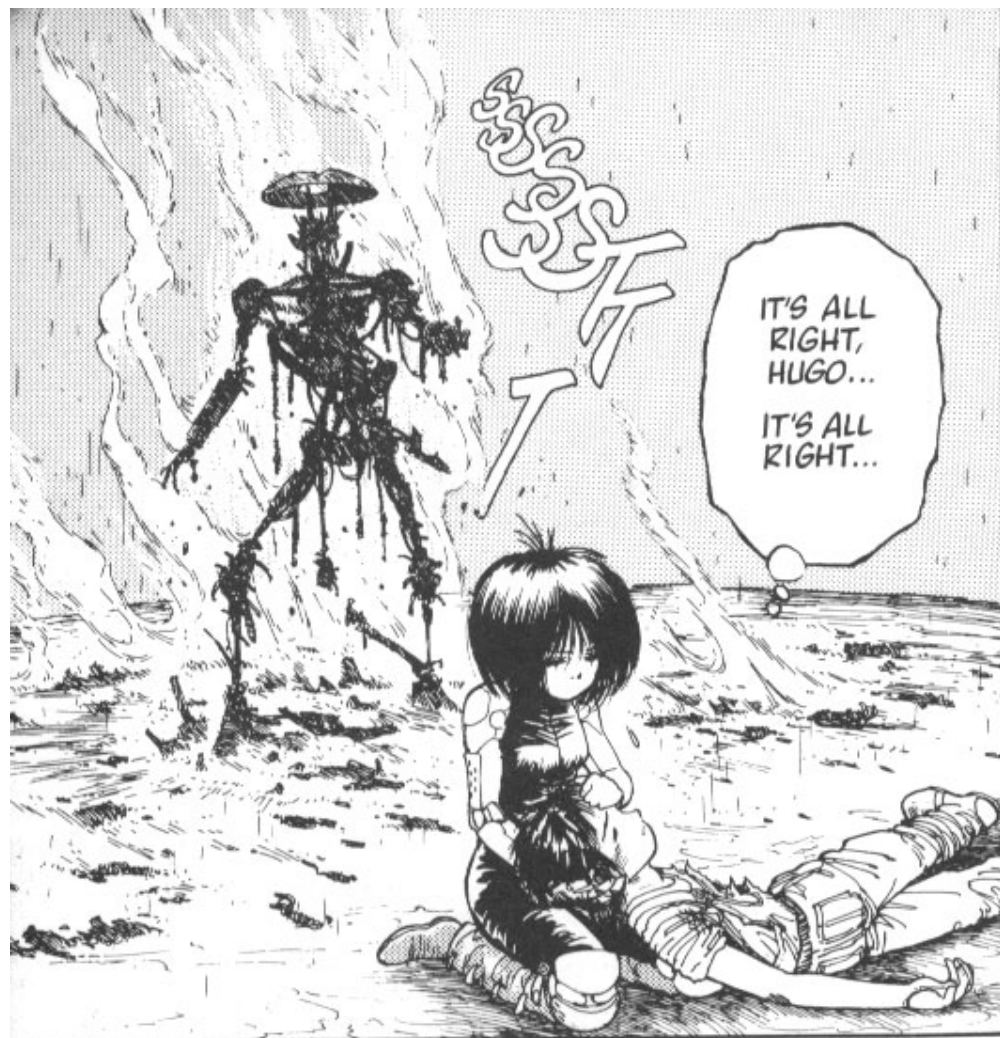


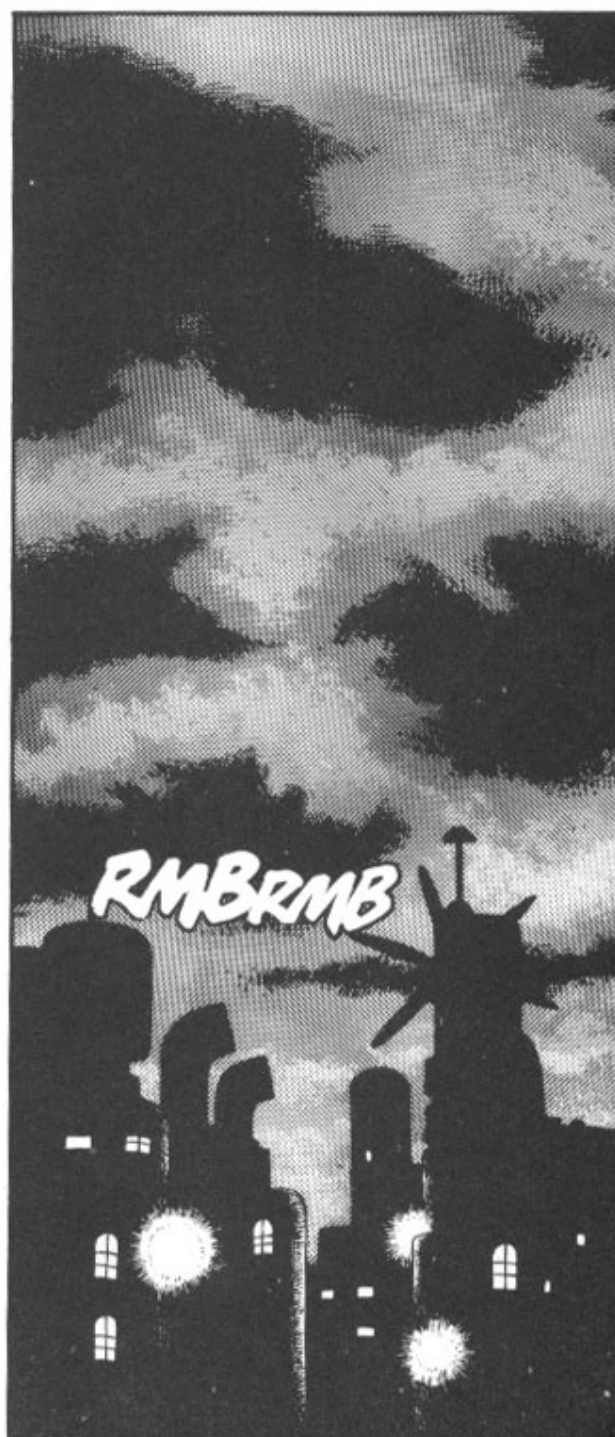


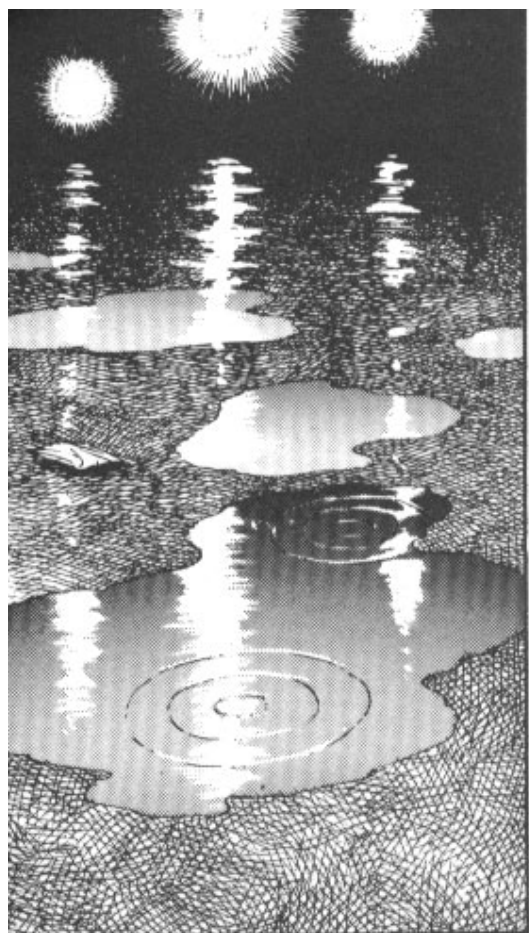


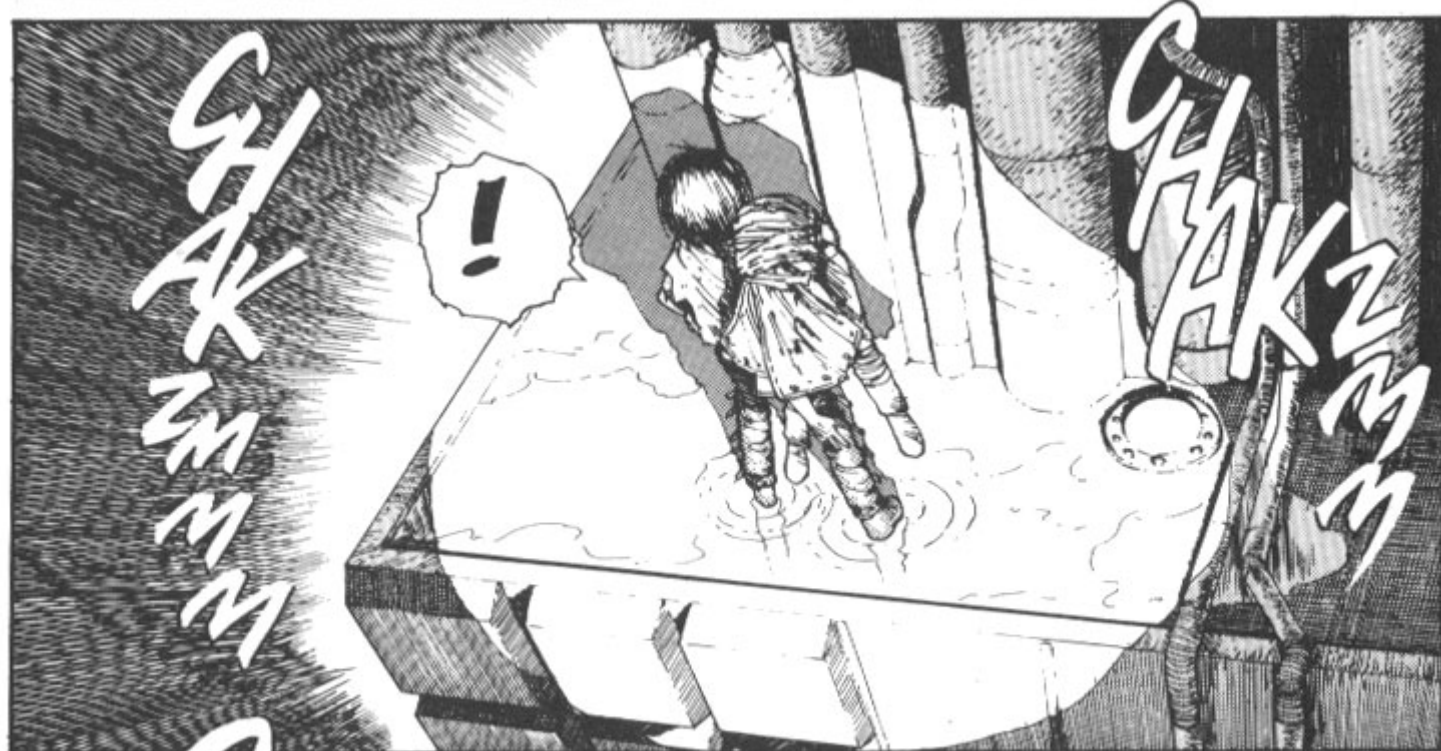


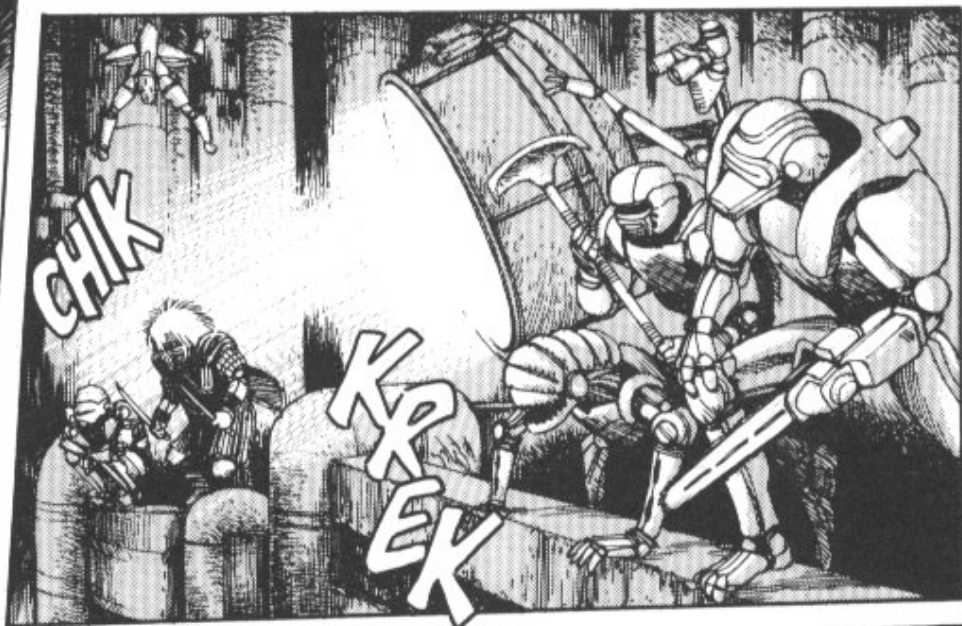












HUNTER-
WARRIOR
ALITA,
REGISTRATION
NUMBER
F33-405...

...I AM
FACTORY LAW
REMOTE
TERMINAL 2.
MY SOLE
PURPOSE IS TO
DESTROY ALL
HUNTER-
WARRIORS FOUND
GUILTY OF
INSURRECTION.

PITY--
I NEVER
THOUGHT THE
GREAT
ZAPAN WOULD
HAVE TO
BRING A
NETMAN
AFTER A
COLLEAGUE.

KACHAK

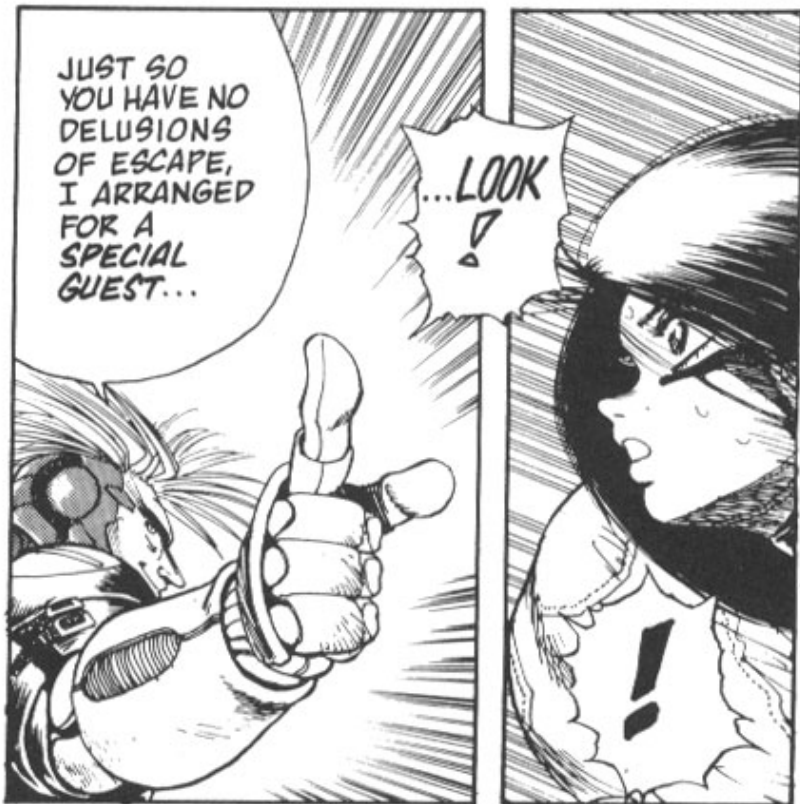
FACTORY LAW

FACTORY
LAW



JUST SO
YOU HAVE NO
DELUSIONS
OF ESCAPE,
I ARRANGED
FOR A
SPECIAL
GUEST...

...LOOK
!

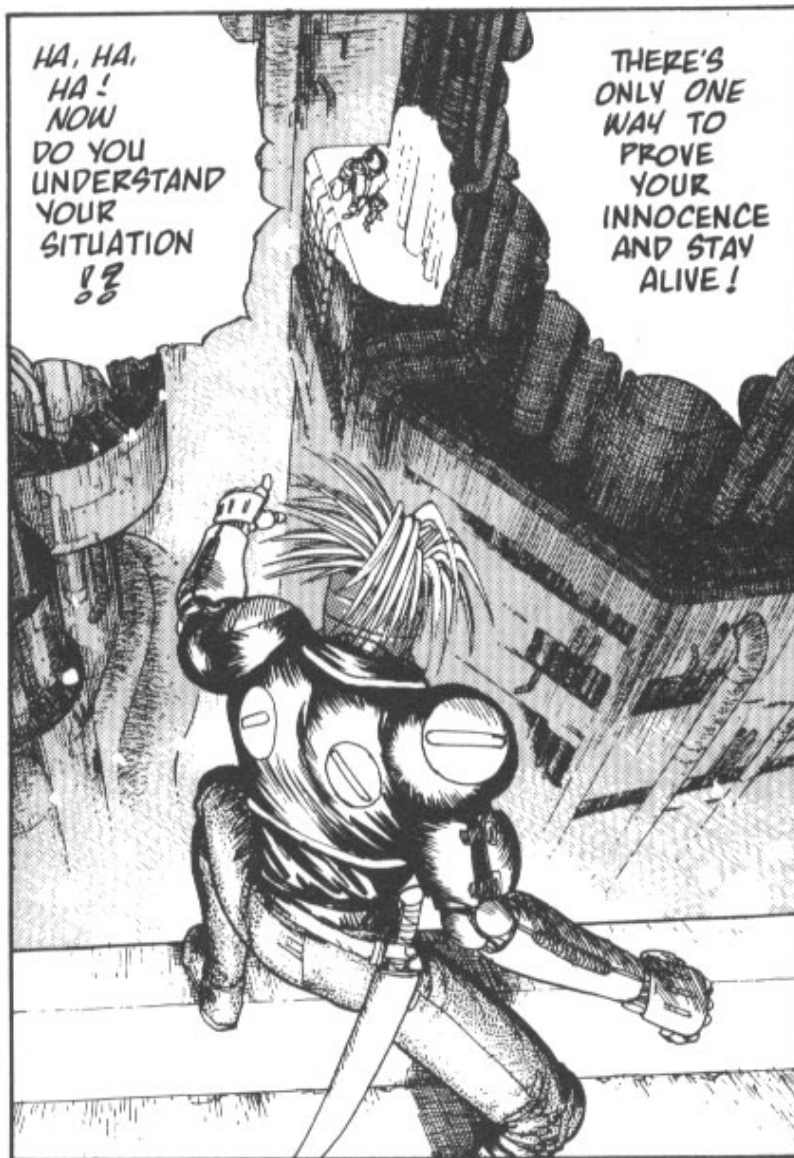


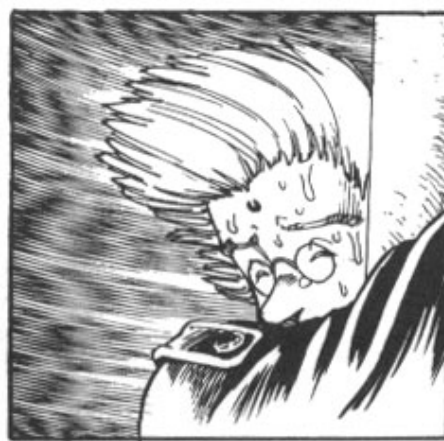
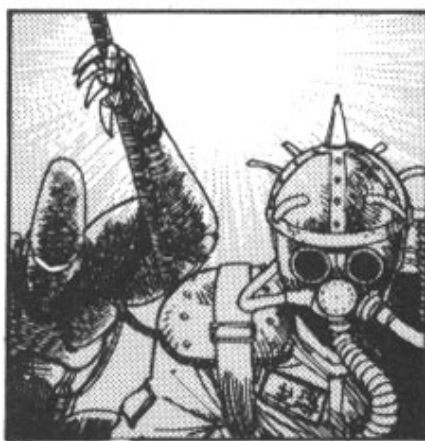
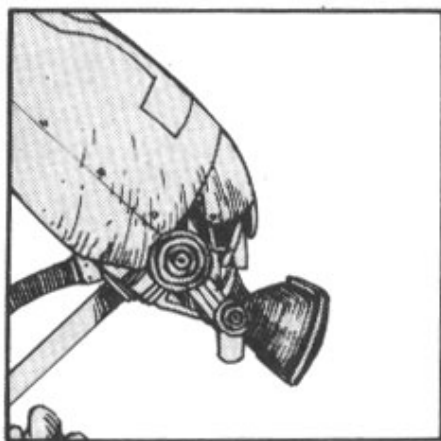
L-LET
ME
DOWN!

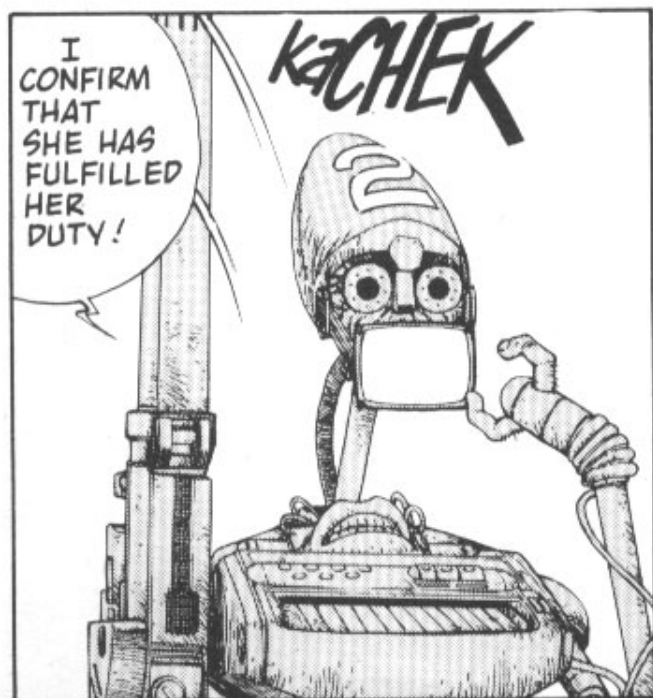
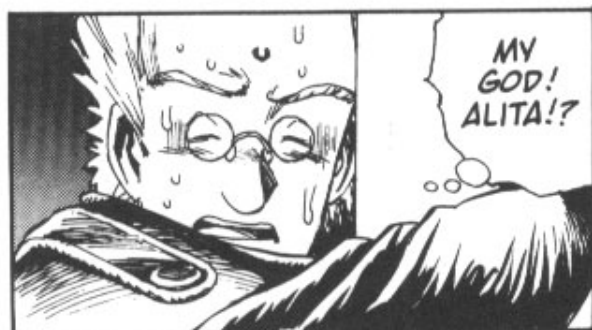
SHAAAAA

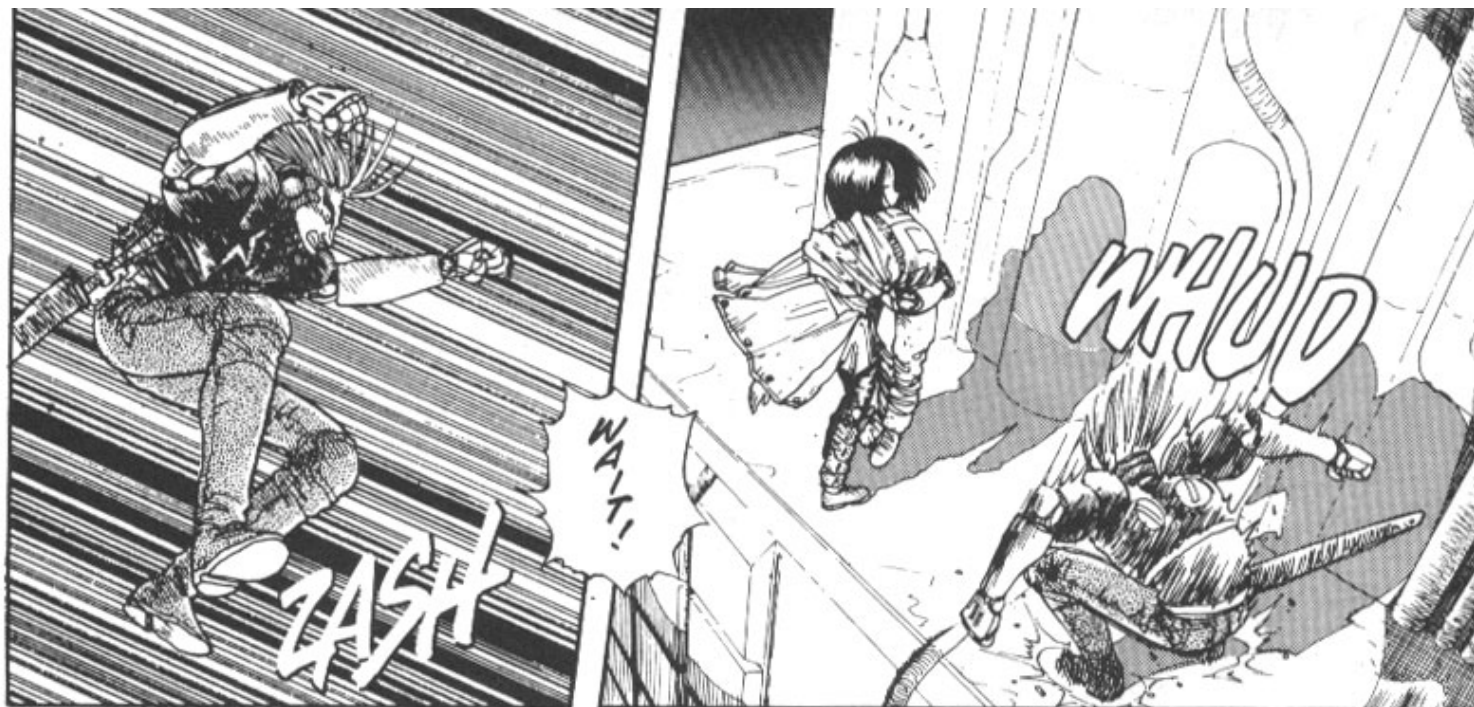
I'M
AFRAID
OF
HEIGHTS
!



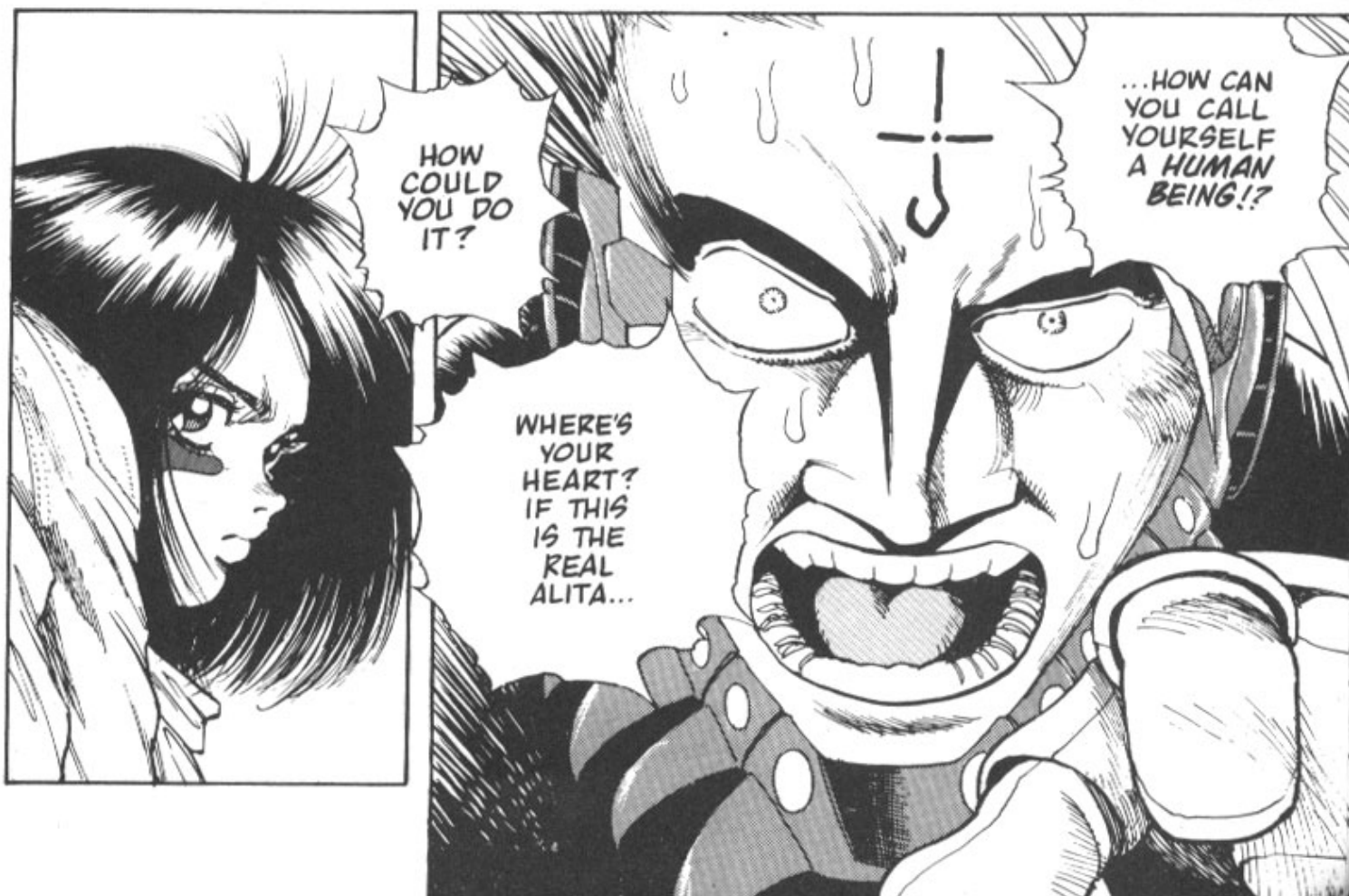








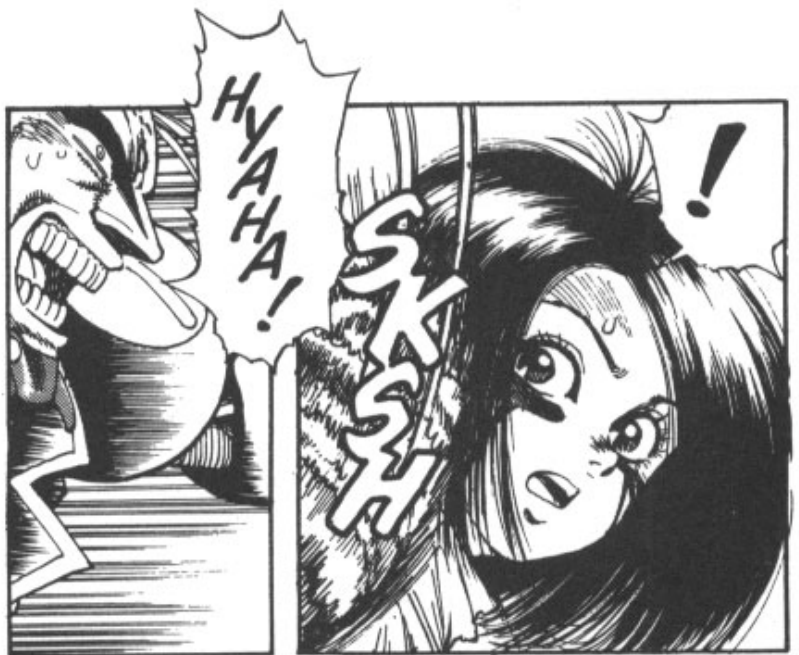
ALITA...I
THOUGHT
YOU LOVED
THAT
PUNK!



HOW
COULD
YOU DO
IT?

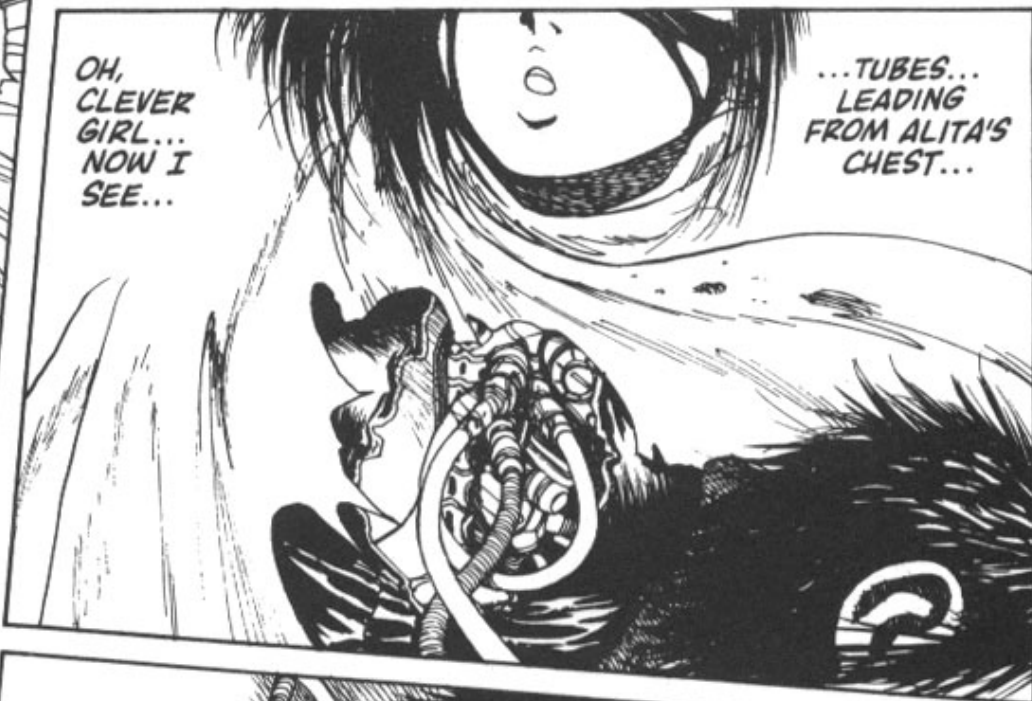
WHERE'S
YOUR
HEART?
IF THIS
IS THE
REAL
ALITA...

...HOW CAN
YOU CALL
YOURSELF
A HUMAN
BEING!?





OH,
CLEVER
GIRL...
NOW I
SEE...



...TUBES...
LEADING
FROM ALITA'S
CHEST...



...TUBES...
CONNECTED
TO HUGO'S
HEAD.

SO
SIMPLE...



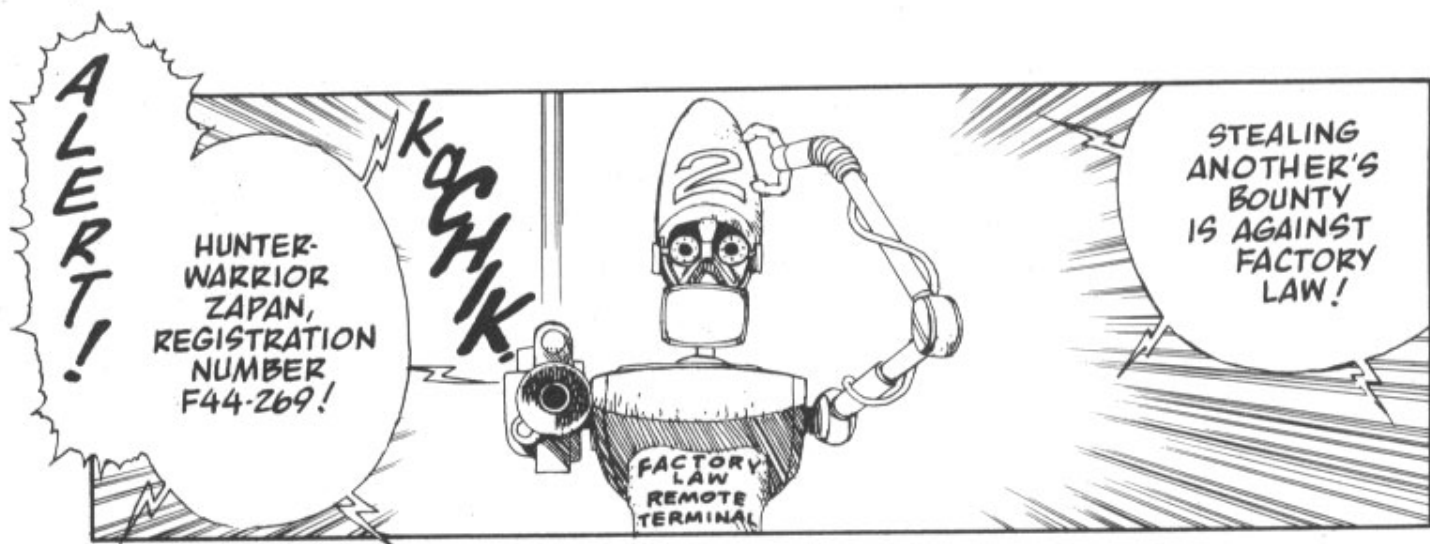
...THEY'RE
SHARING
THE SAME
LIFE-
SUPPORT
MECHANISM
!



WHICH
MEANS
THAT
HUGO'S
BRAIN
ISN'T
DEAD!



WHAT
A
PERFECT
STRATEGY
!



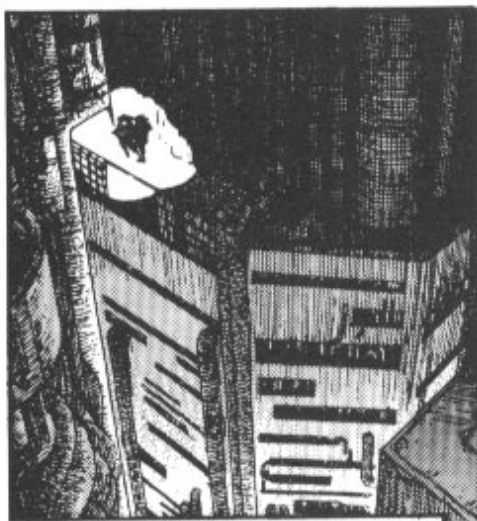




BITTER DREAMS

Struggle 4: Broken Hearts

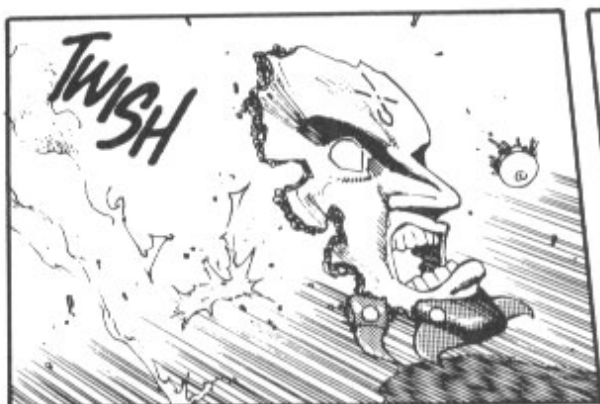




LAST NIGHT AT 20:12
NEAR AMMONIA AVE...



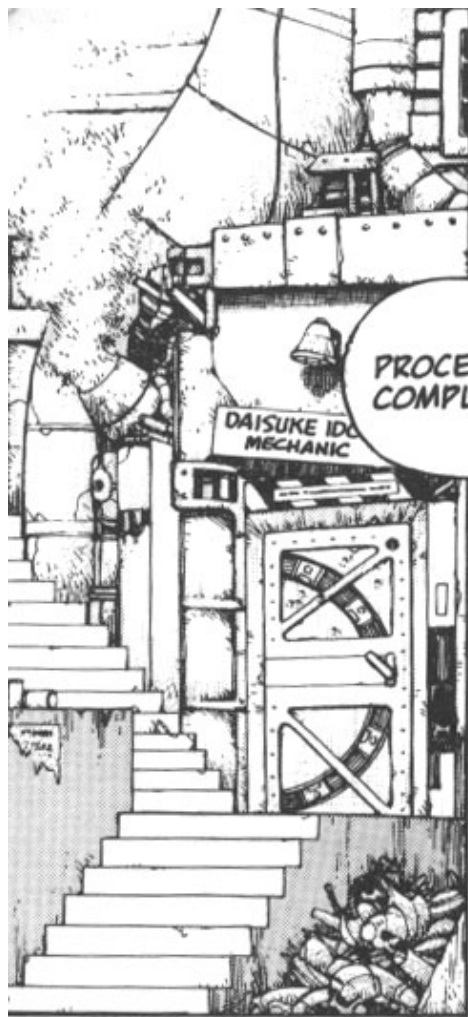
...HUNTER ZAPAN TRIED TO STEAL PROOF OF
HUNTER ALITA'S BOUNTY, HUNTER ALITA
RETALIATED.



ZAPAN'S FACE WAS DESTROYED, AND HE
SLIPPED CLUMSILY, DISAPPEARING INTO
THE VALLEY OF BUILDINGS.



ALITA WAS NOT PUNISHED. SHE DID
NOT EXCHANGE THE HEAD FOR THE
REWARD, SAYING SHE WOULD BURY IT
INSTEAD.



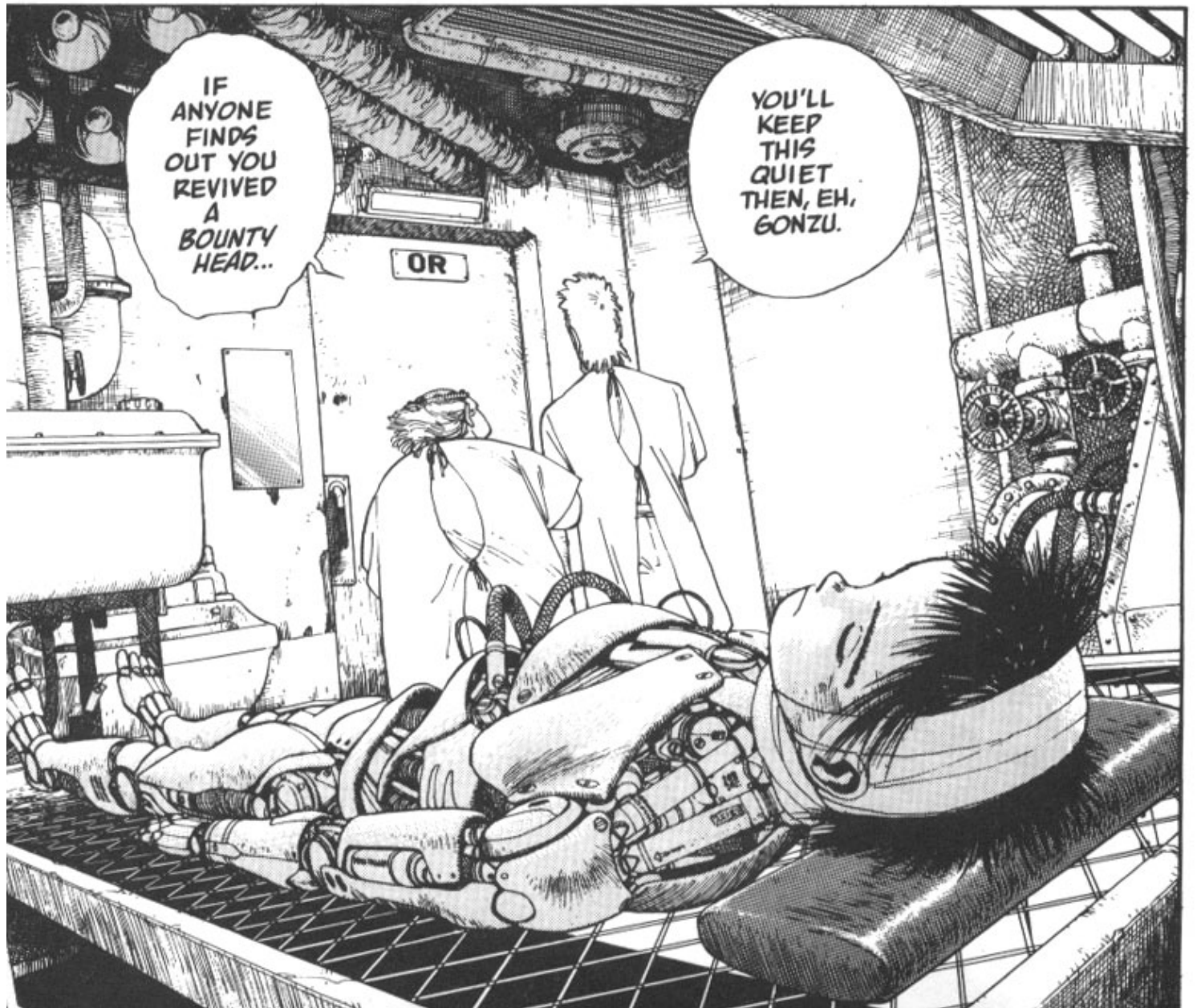
PROCEDURE COMPLETED.



I UTILIZED THE BODY OF A CYBORG PATIENT WHO DIED OF A STROKE.

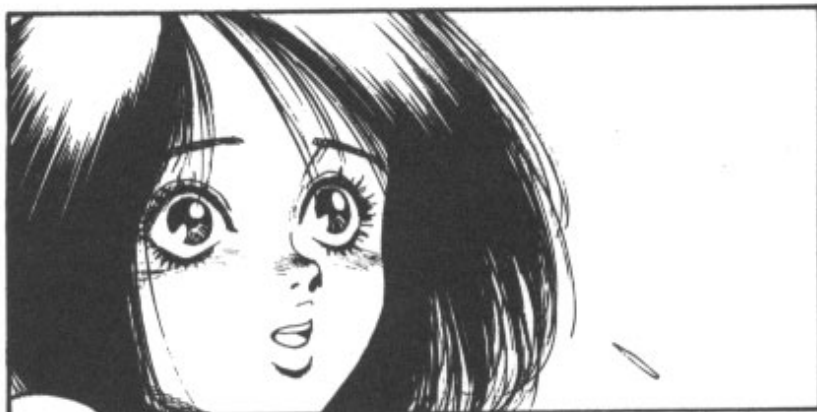
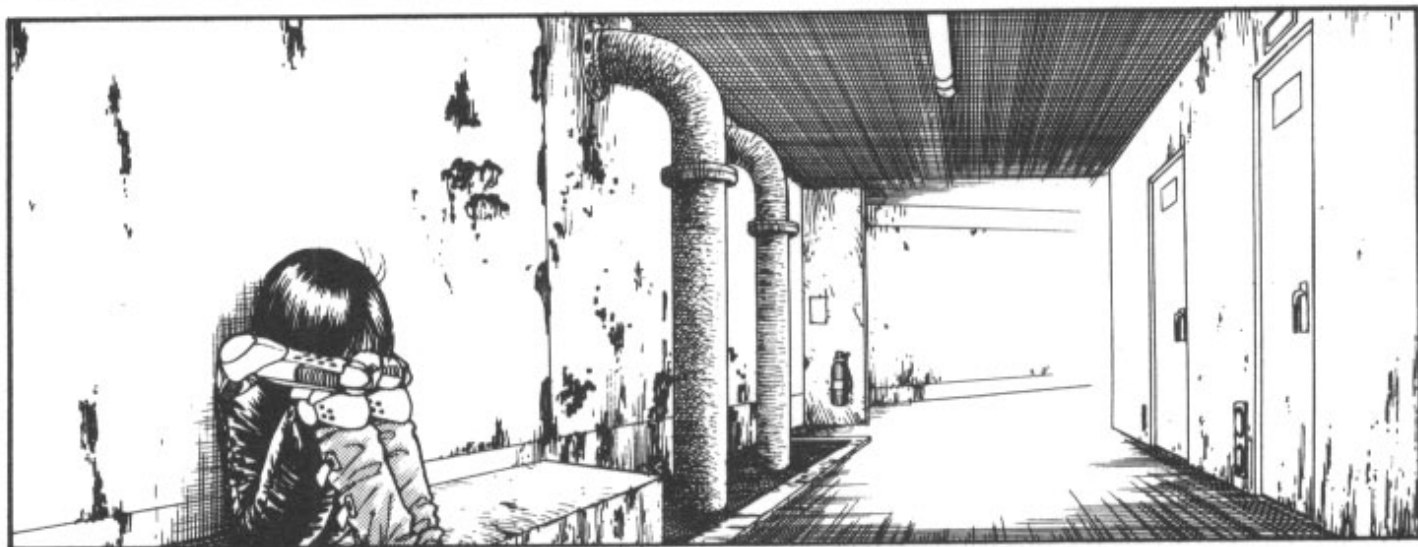
IT'S PERFECT.

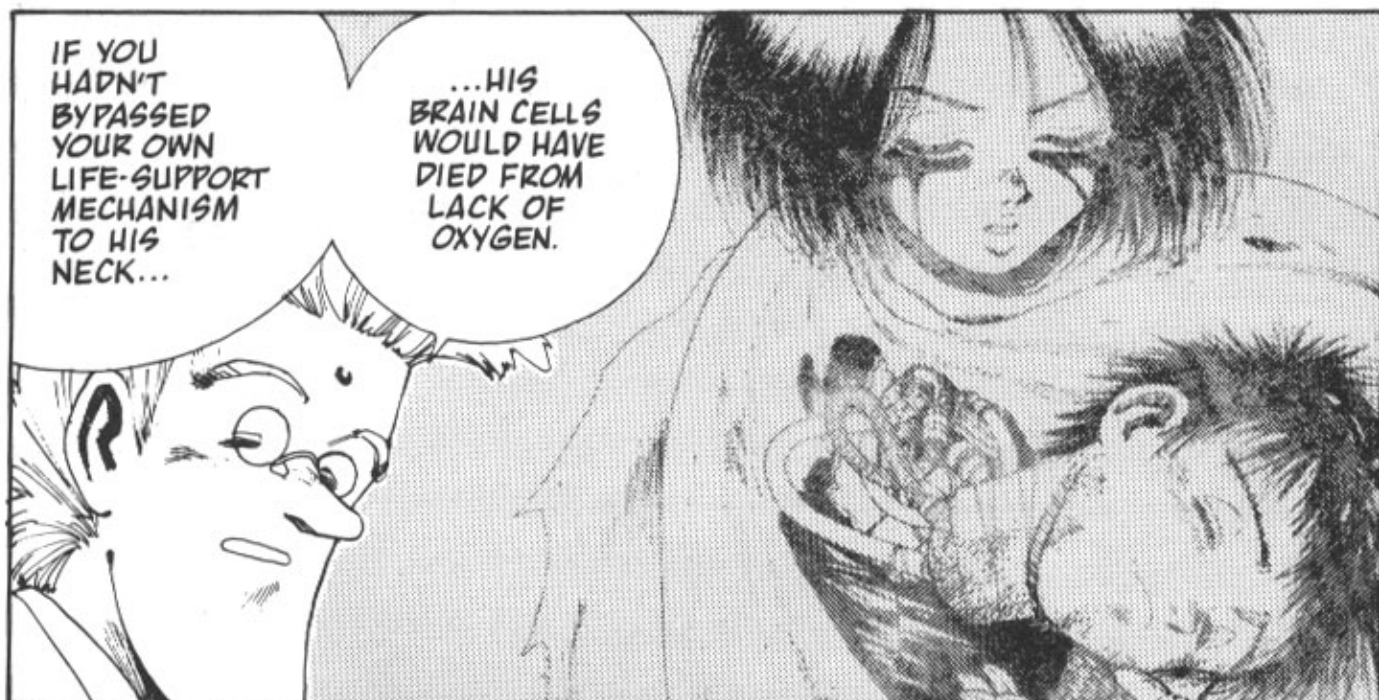
B-BUT, IDO...ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL RIGHT?



IF ANYONE FINDS OUT YOU REVIVED A BOUNTY HEAD...

YOU'LL KEEP THIS QUIET THEN, EH, GONZU.



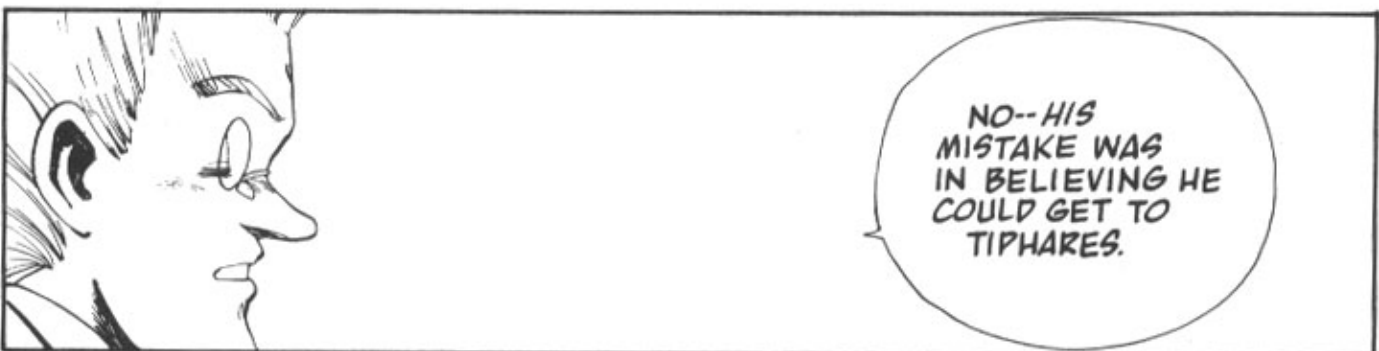


IF YOU
HADN'T
BYPASSED
YOUR OWN
LIFE-SUPPORT
MECHANISM
TO HIS
NECK...

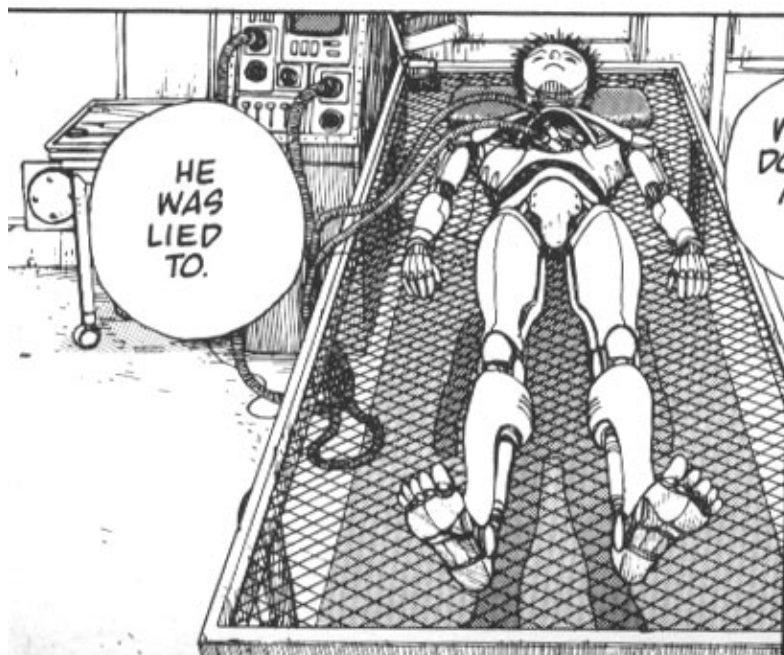
...HIS
BRAIN CELLS
WOULD HAVE
DIED FROM
LACK OF
OXYGEN.



BUT IT
WAS MY
RECKLESSNESS
THAT PUT
HUGO IN
JEOPARDY...



NO-- HIS
MISTAKE WAS
IN BELIEVING HE
COULD GET TO
TIPHARES.



HE
WAS
LIED
TO.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
?





YOU SILLY
DREAMERS...

...THE
NOTION
THAT YOU
CAN GET TO
TIPHARES
IF YOU SAVE
ENOUGH
CHIPS--
NONSENSE
!



I SHOULD
KNOW...
I WAS A
TIPHAREAN
LONG
AGO.

I WAS EXPELLED
FROM THE FLOATING
CITY. I KNOW
BETTER THAN
ANYONE-- YOU
CAN'T GET TO
TIPHARES FROM
THE GROUND
BELOW.

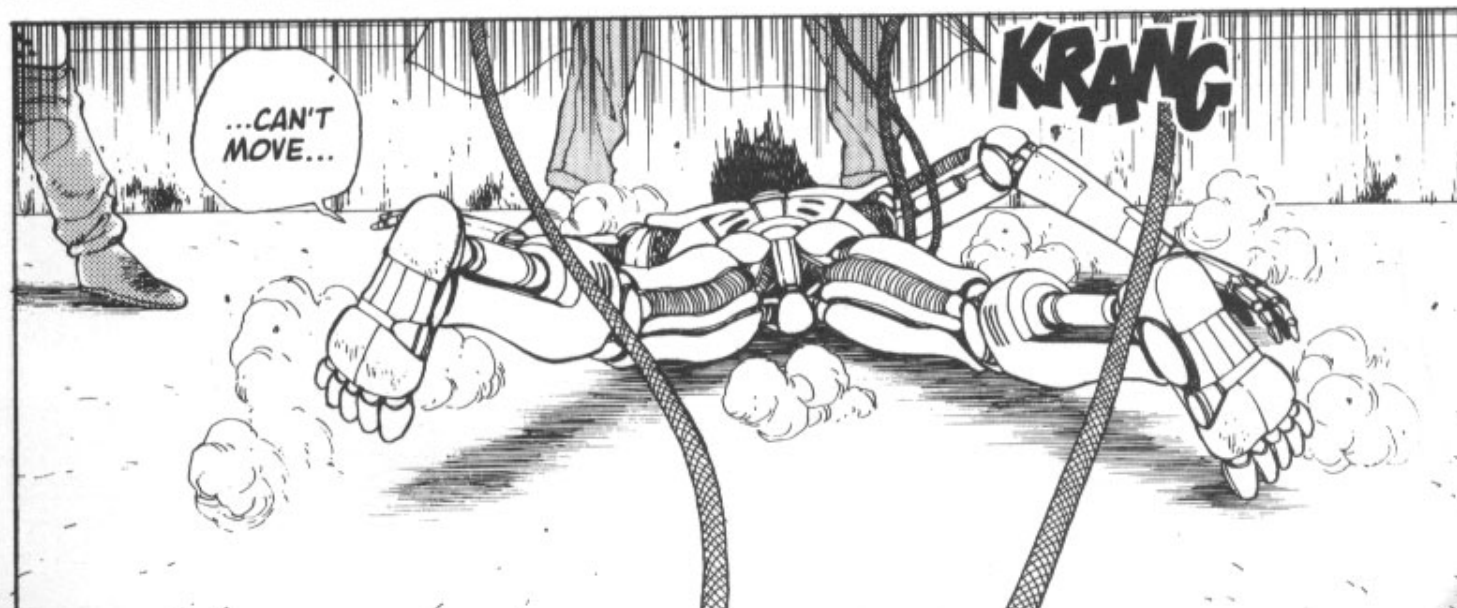
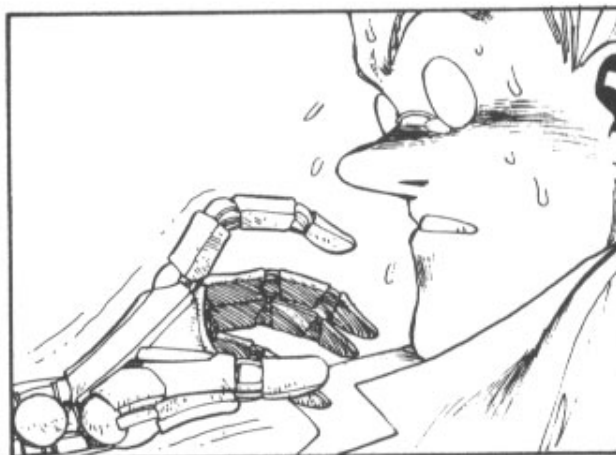
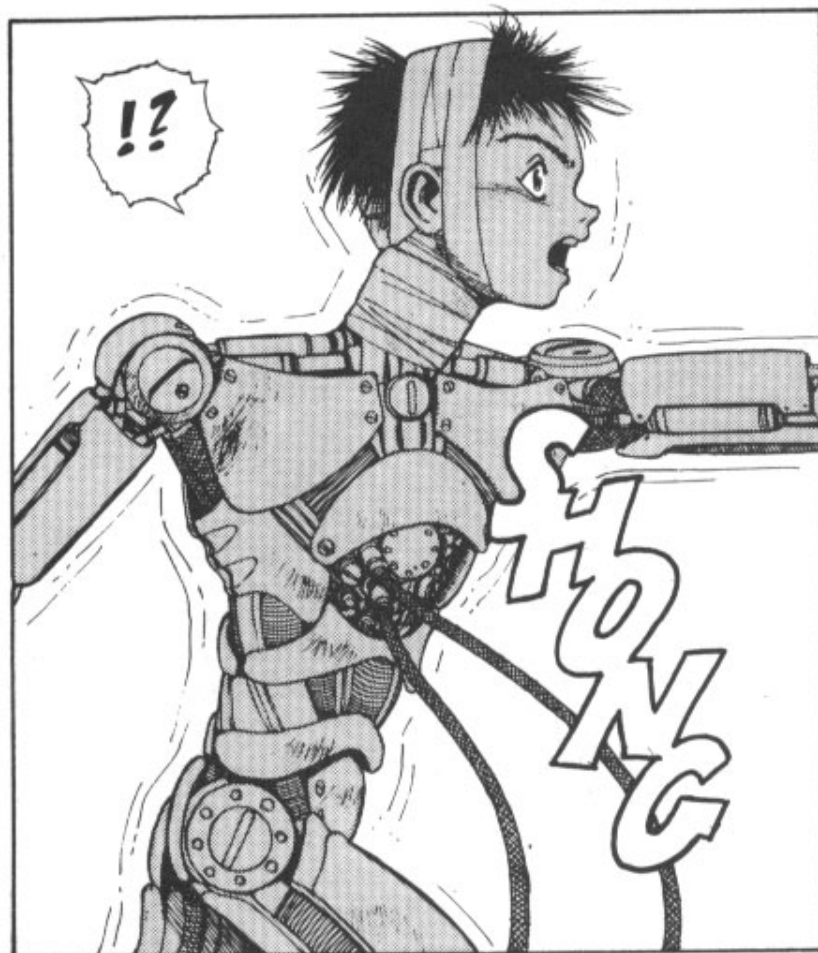
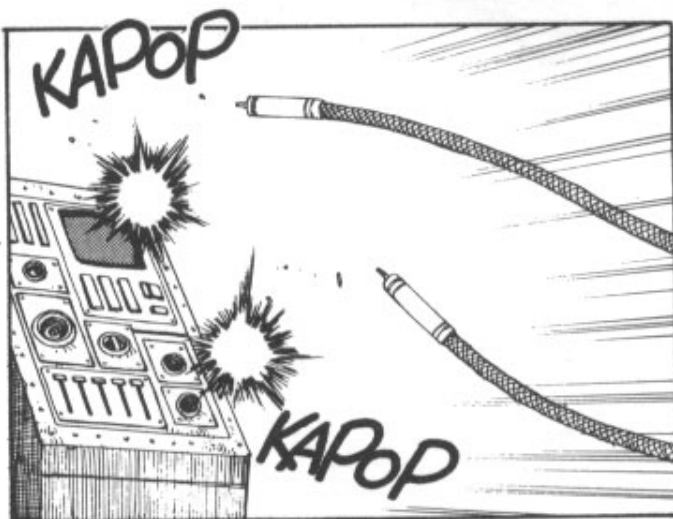
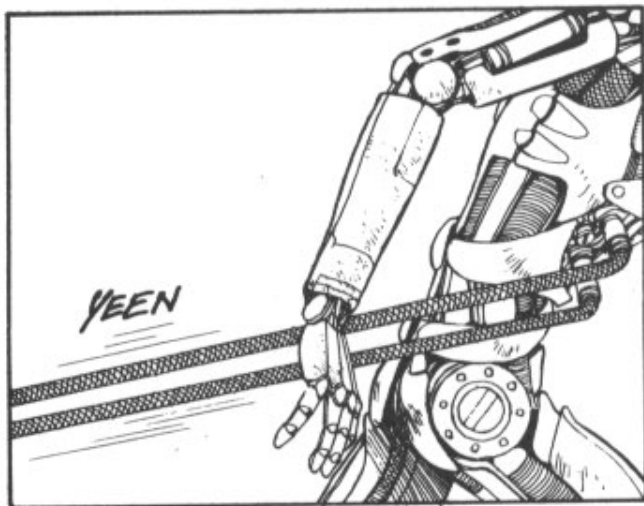


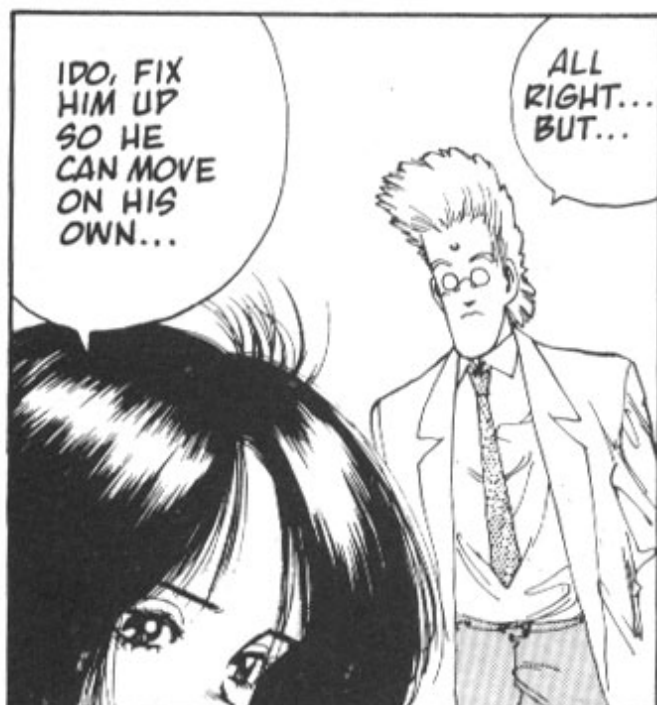
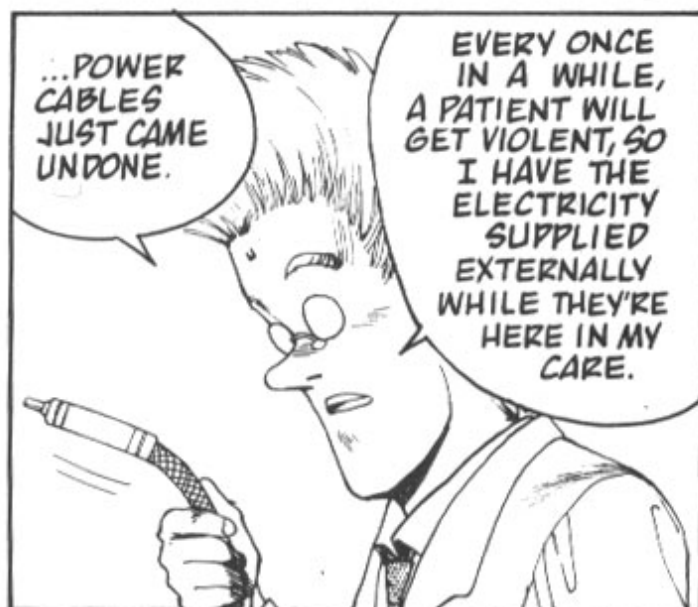
THIS MARK
ON MY
FOREHEAD?
A STAMP...
TO SHOW
I WAS A
CITIZEN OF
TIPHARES.

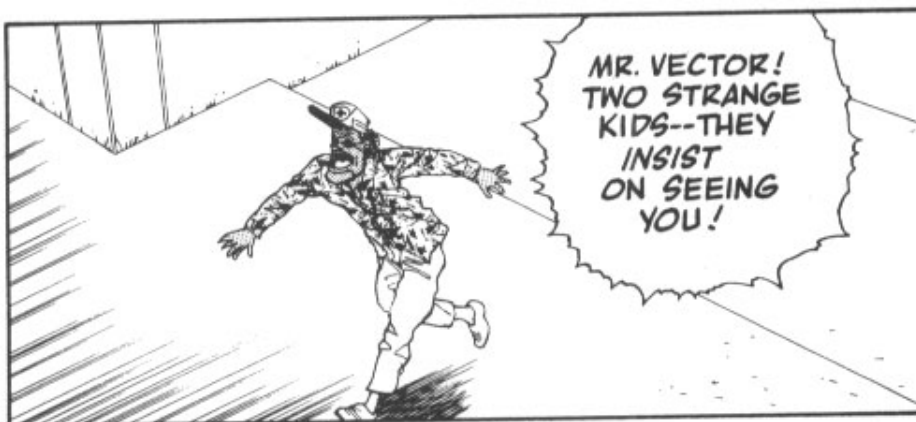
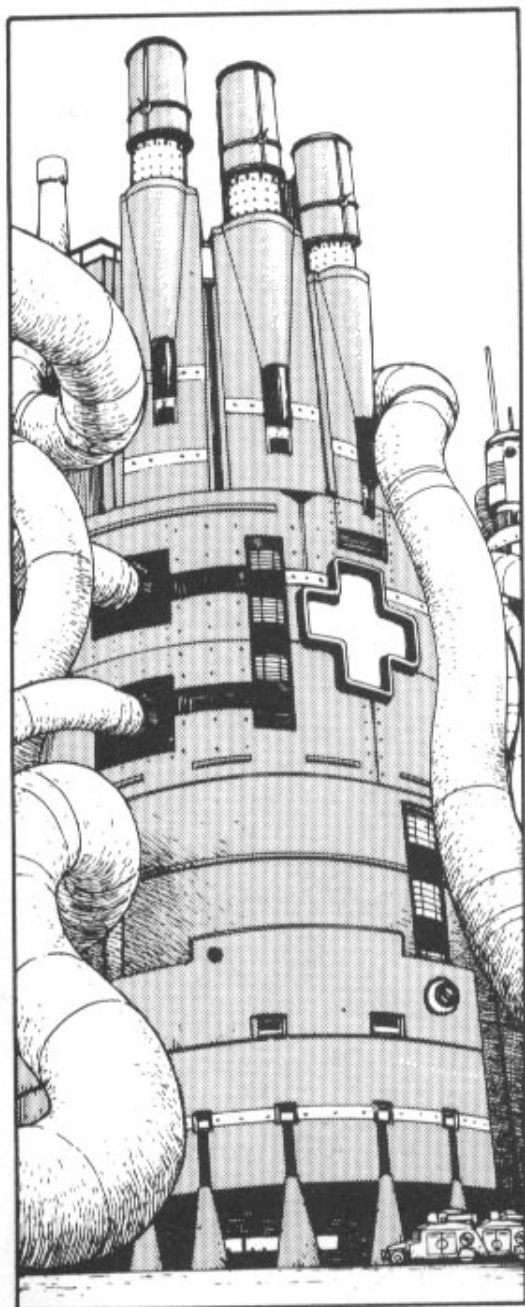


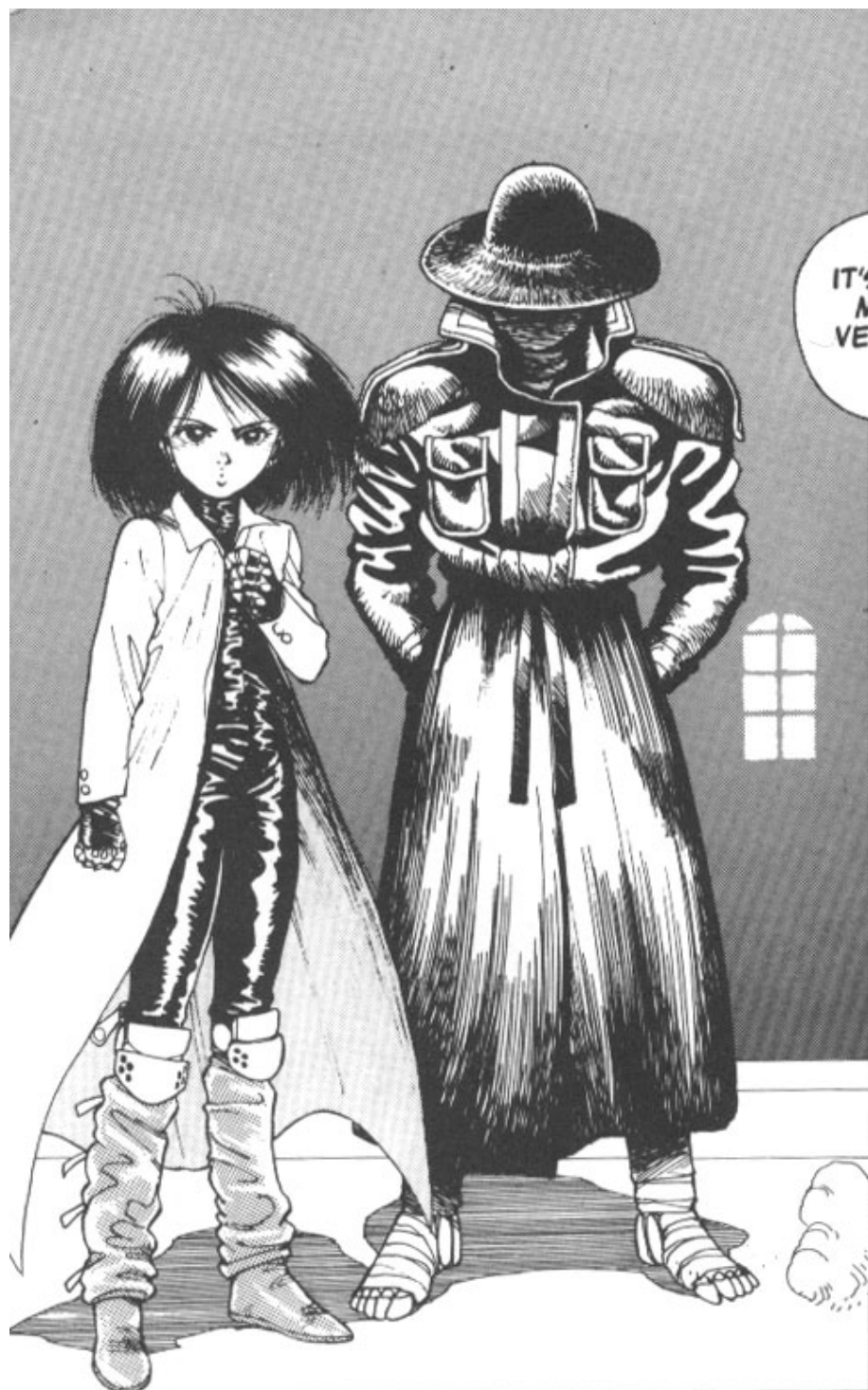
I SHOULD
HAVE TOLD
YOU SOONER.
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
HIDE IT
FROM
YOU.



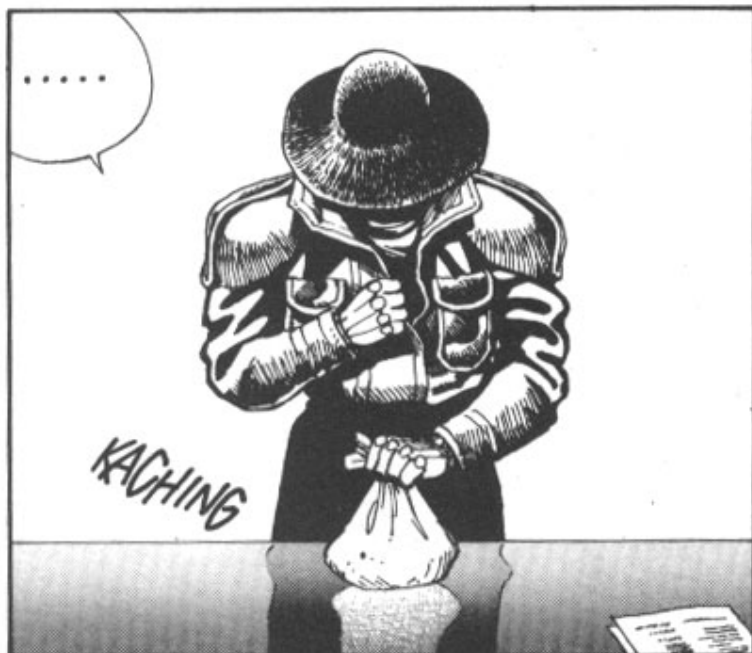


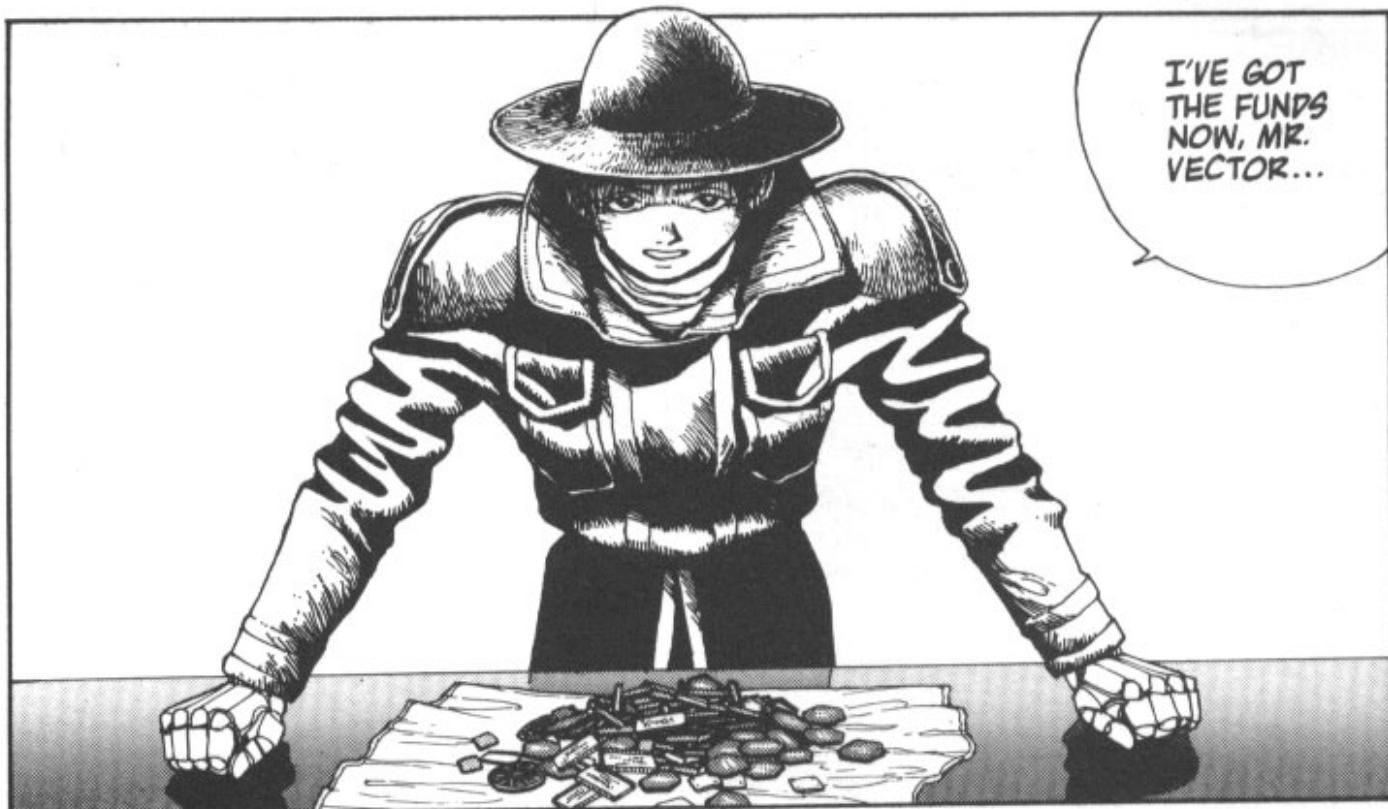






IT'S ME,
MR.
VECTOR.

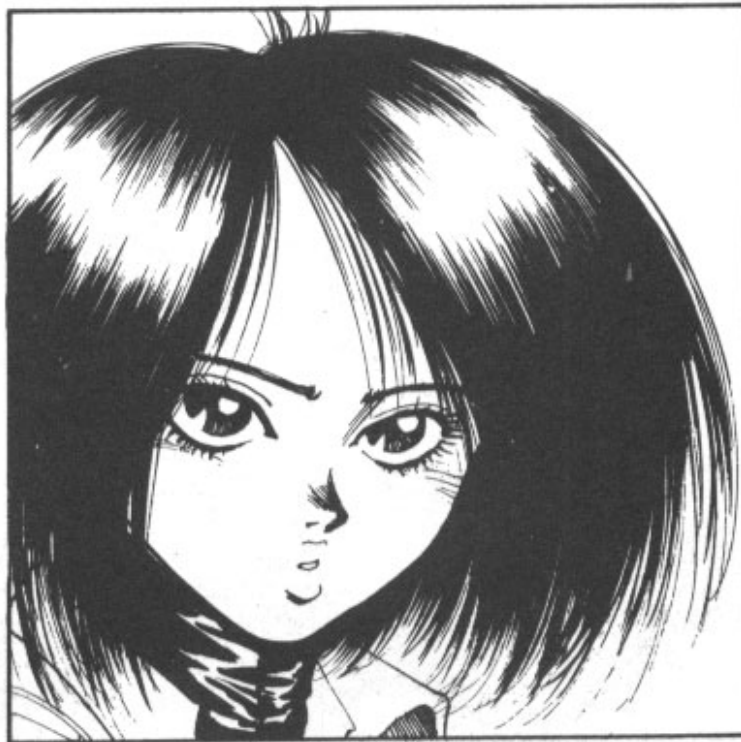


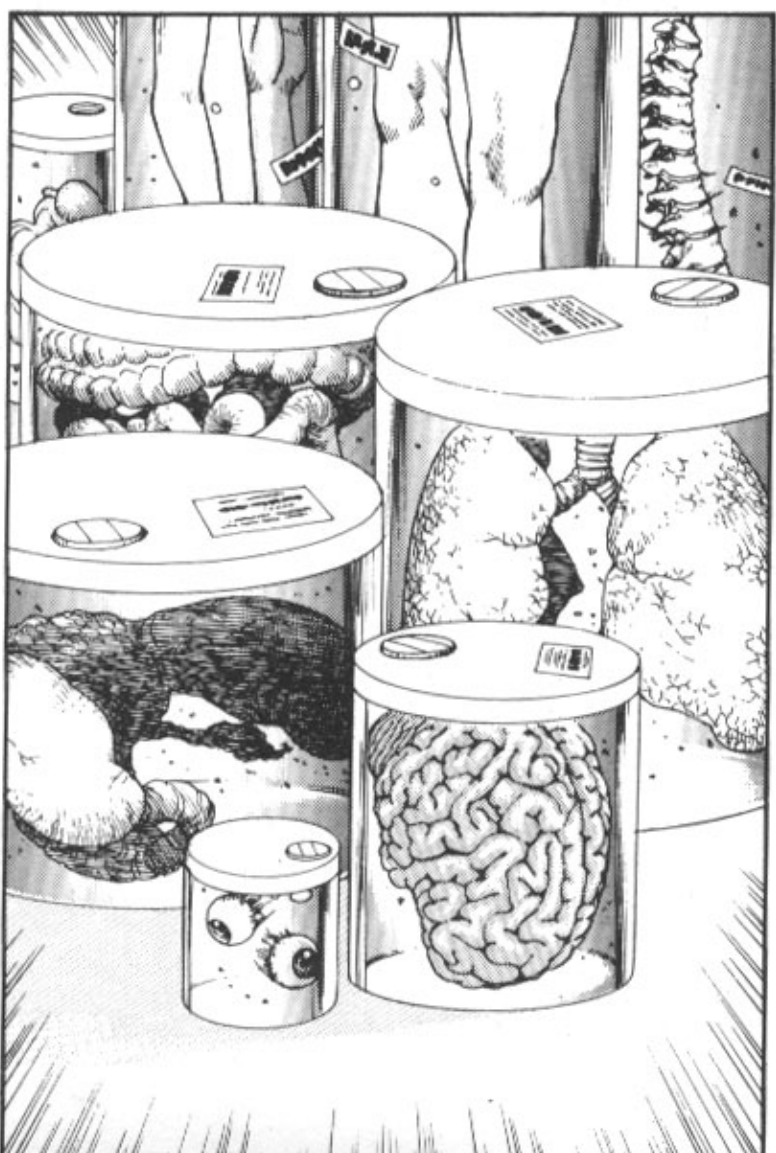
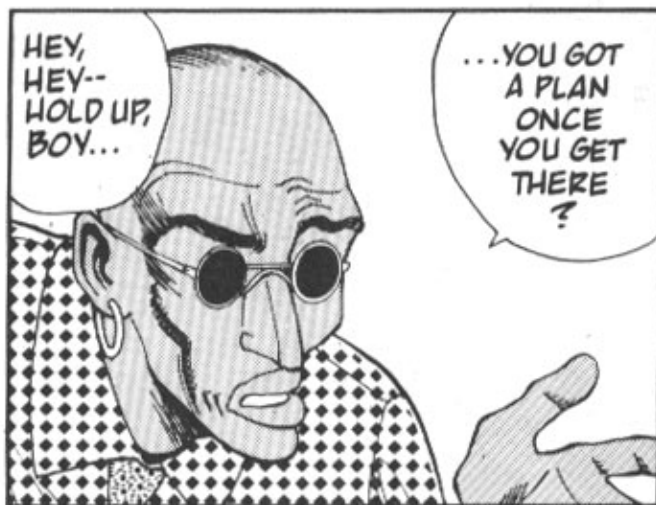


I'VE GOT
THE FUNDS
NOW, MR.
VECTOR...



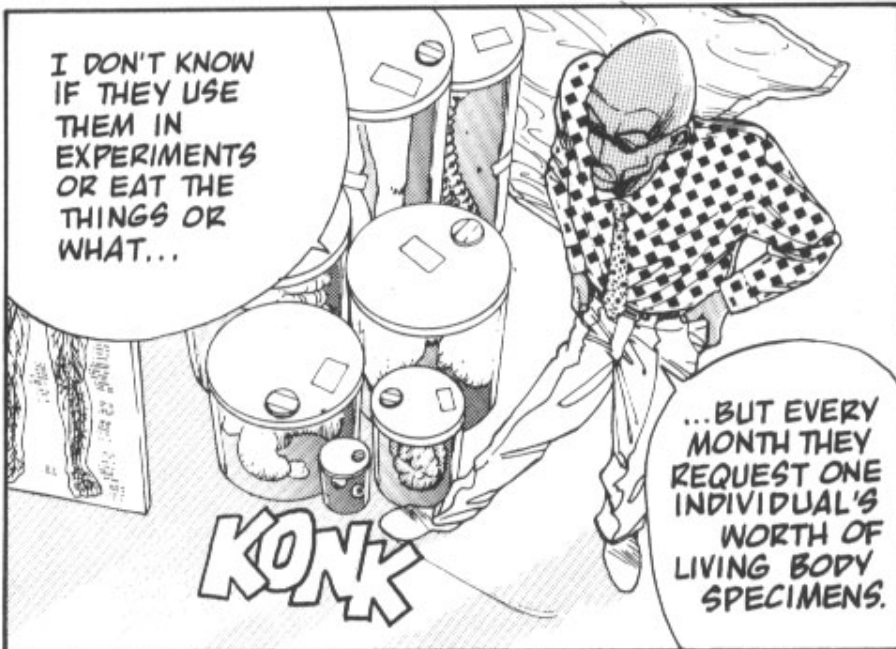
...NOW
DO YOU
HAVE MY
PASSAGE
TO
TIPHARES
?







I DON'T KNOW
IF THEY USE
THEM IN
EXPERIMENTS
OR EAT THE
THINGS OR
WHAT...



SO YOU WERE
PLANNING TO
TAKE MY
TEN MILLION
CHIPS AND
CUT ME
INTO TINY
PIECES?

...BUT EVERY
MONTH THEY
REQUEST ONE
INDIVIDUAL'S
WORTH OF
LIVING BODY
SPECIMENS.



OF
COURSE
NOT,
HUGO!

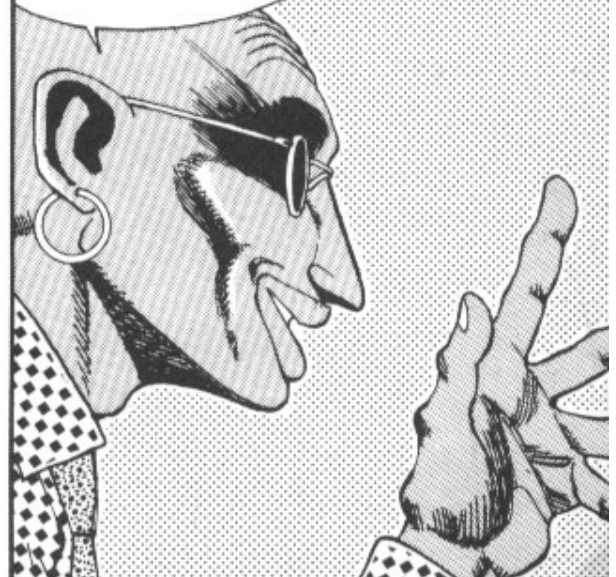
I JUST
THOUGHT
YOU'D GIVE
UP IF I
ASKED FOR
SOME
OUTRAGEOUS
SUM.



AND THE
STORY THAT
YOU'VE
BEEN TO
TIPHARES
?



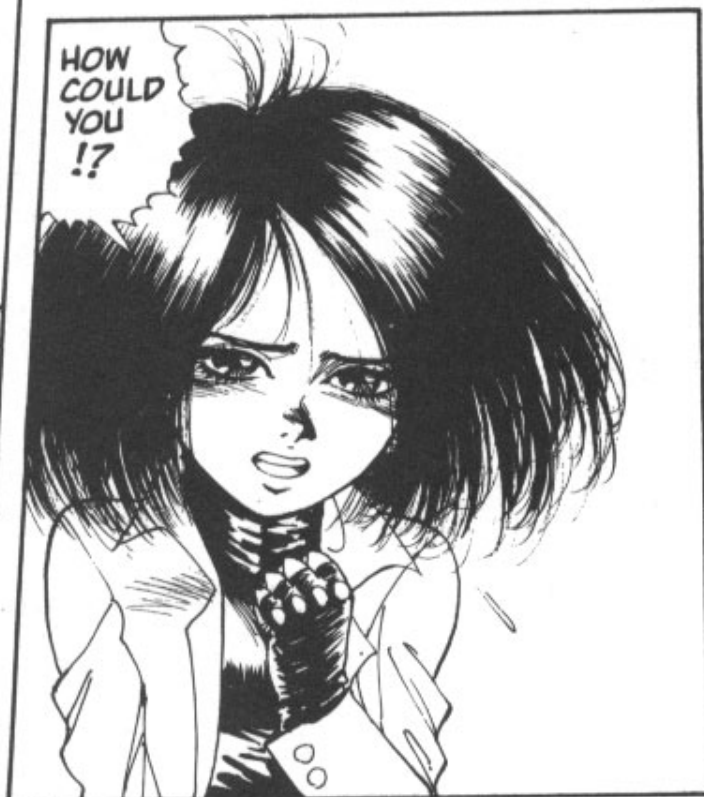
HYPERBOLE.
STRETCHING THE
TRUTH. A LITTLE
EXAGGERATION...
YOU UNDERSTAND--
IT'S GOOD FOR
BUSINESS!





IN SHORT,
VECTOR...

...YOU
CONNED
ME. AND
I WAS
AN EASY
MARK.



HOW
COULD
YOU
!?



HEY! NOW
DON'T GET
ANGRY ON
ME,
HUGO...



...AFTER ALL,
IT'S YOUR OWN
FAULT... NAIVELY
THINKING
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU COULD
GET TO
TIPHARES...

HEY
!

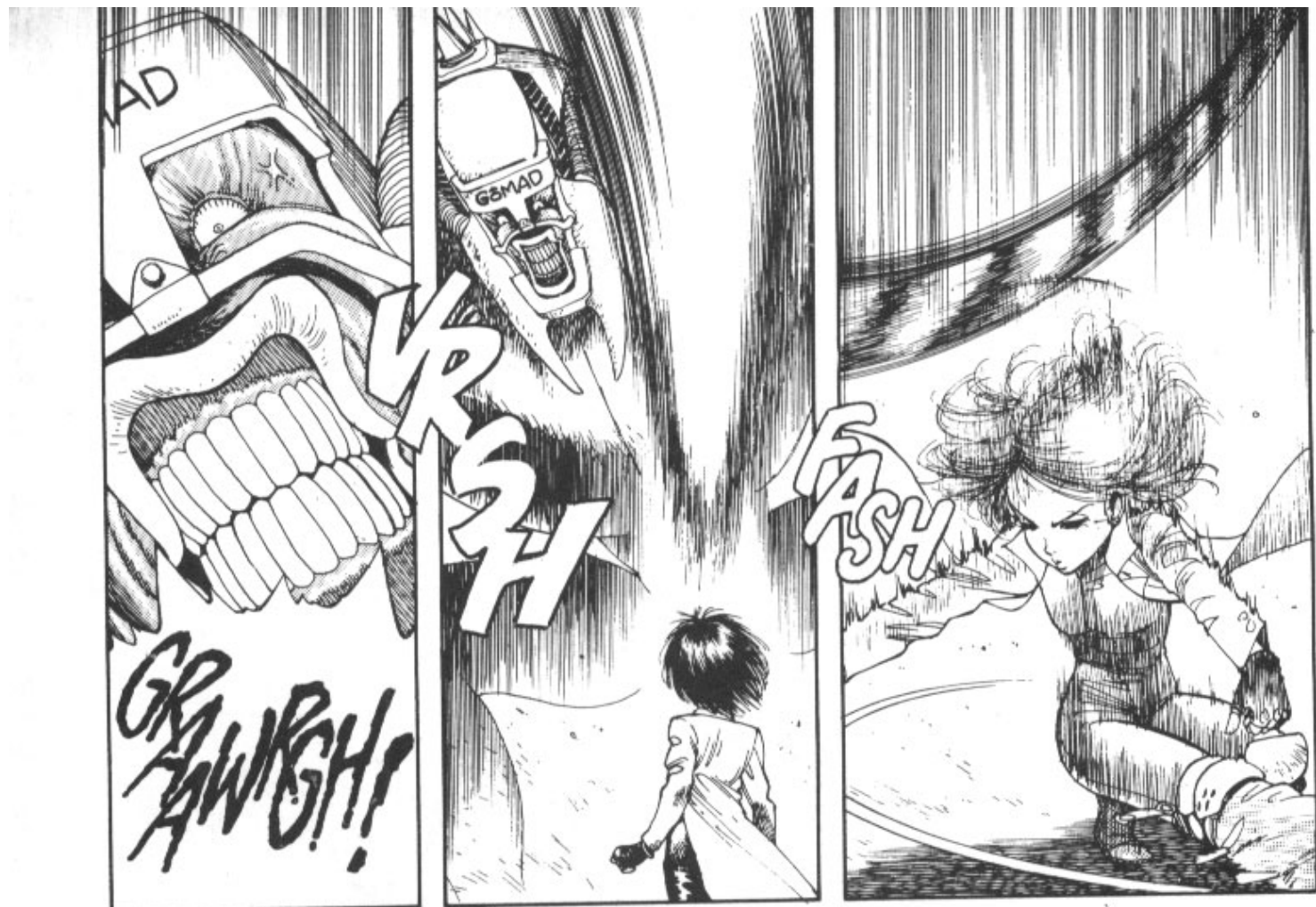
TMP

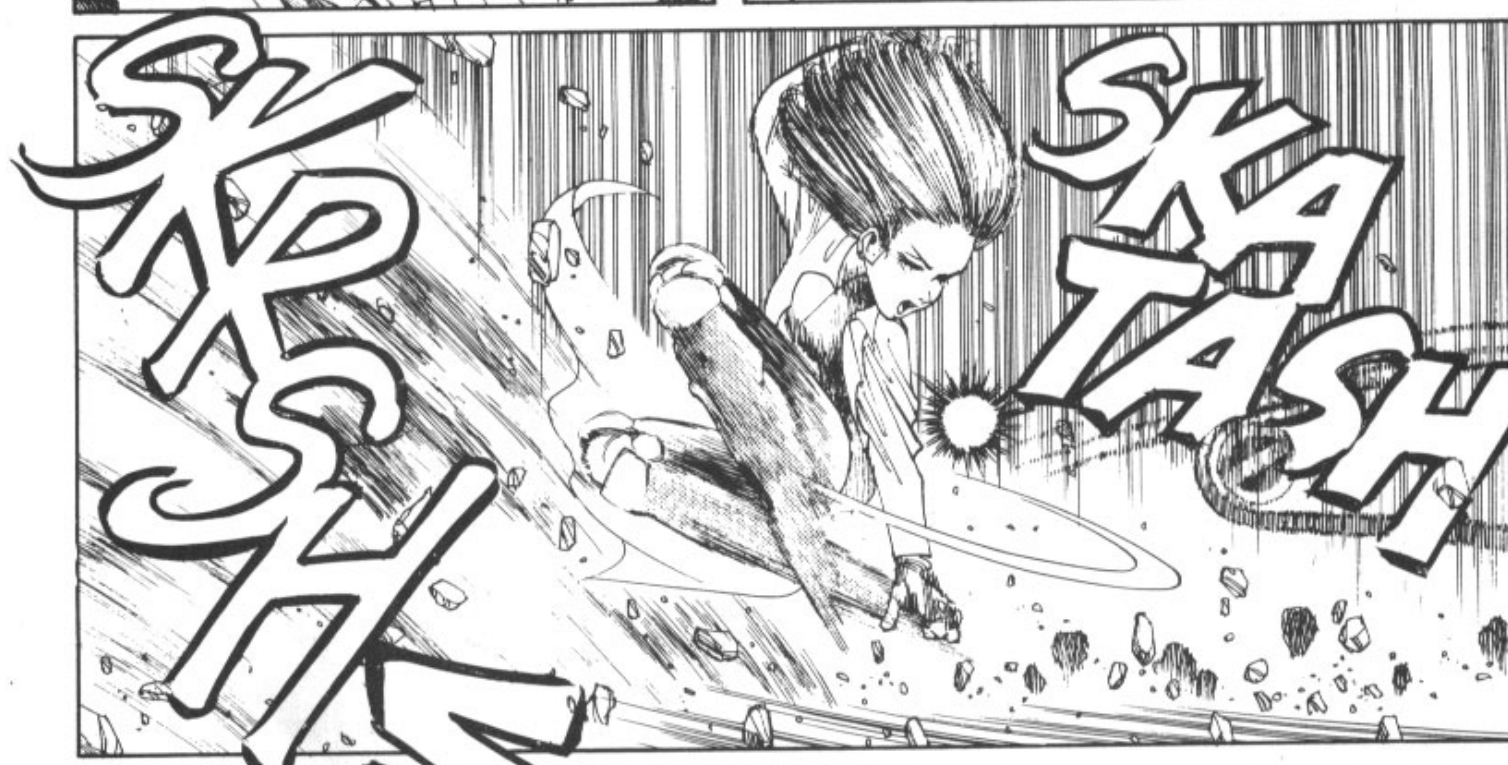


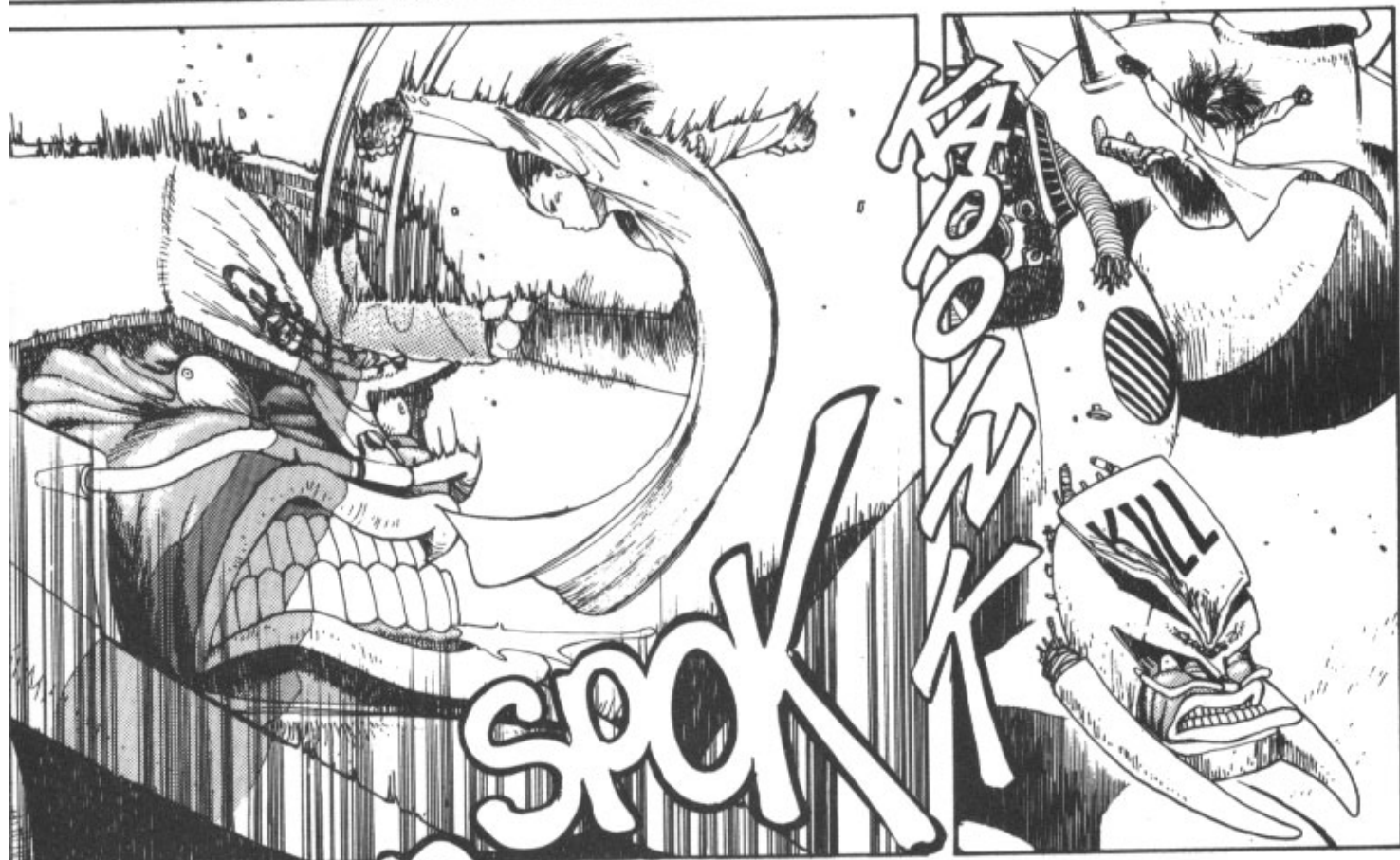
YOU BACK
OFFA ME! I
GOT WAYS
TO DEAL
WITH YOUR
KIND!

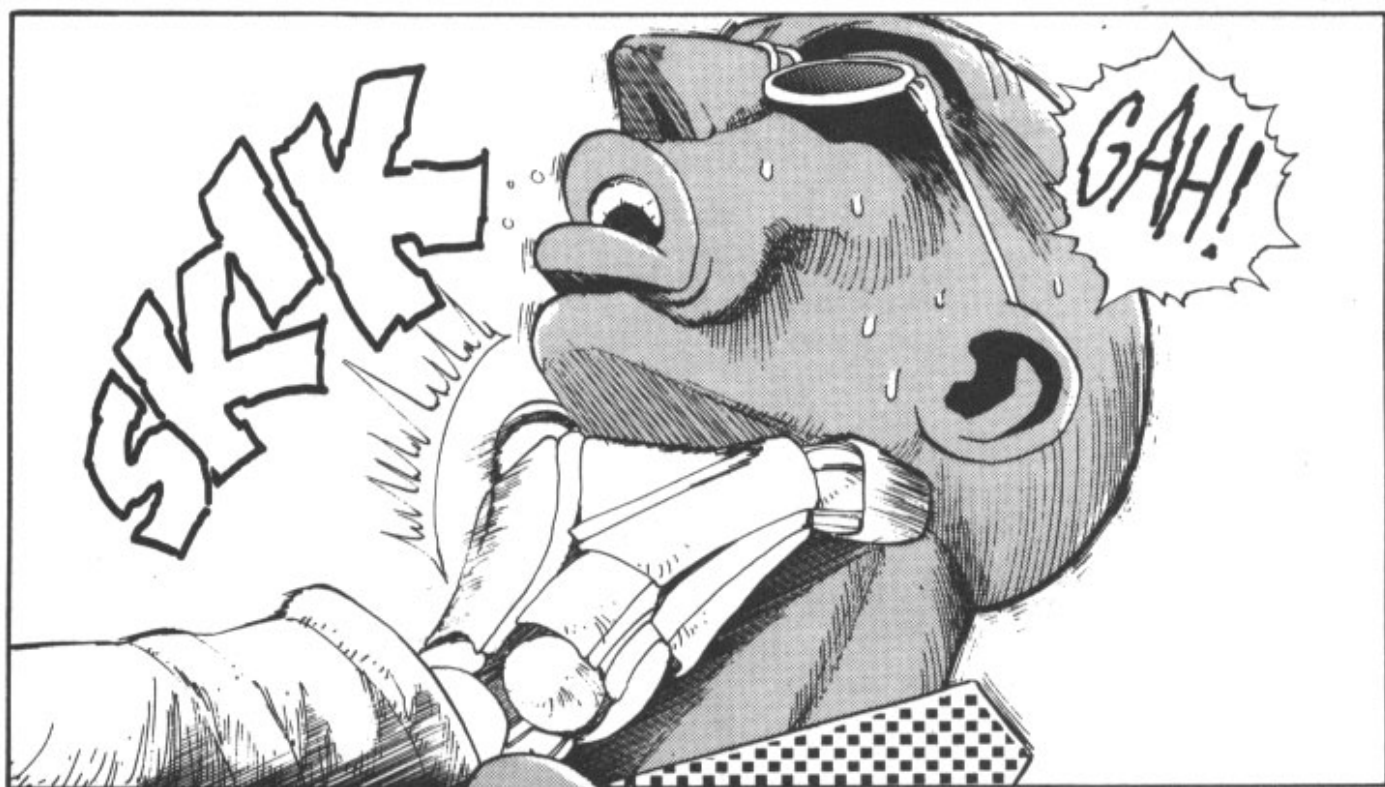
YOU
EVER
HEARD
OF...
ZAARIKI
!?







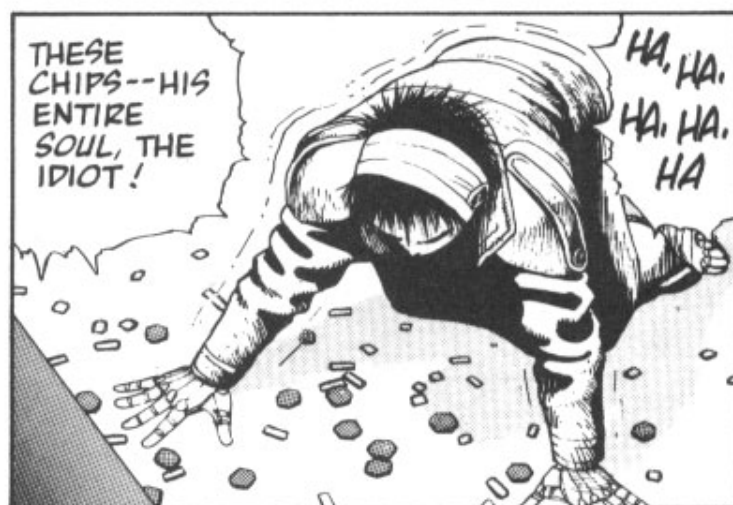














NO,
HUGO--
YOU'RE
WRONG
!

MAYBE
YOU CAN'T
GO TO
TIPHARES, BUT
TOMORROW
WILL COME...



...PLEASE,
LET'S
START
OVER--
TOGETHER,
THIS
TIME!



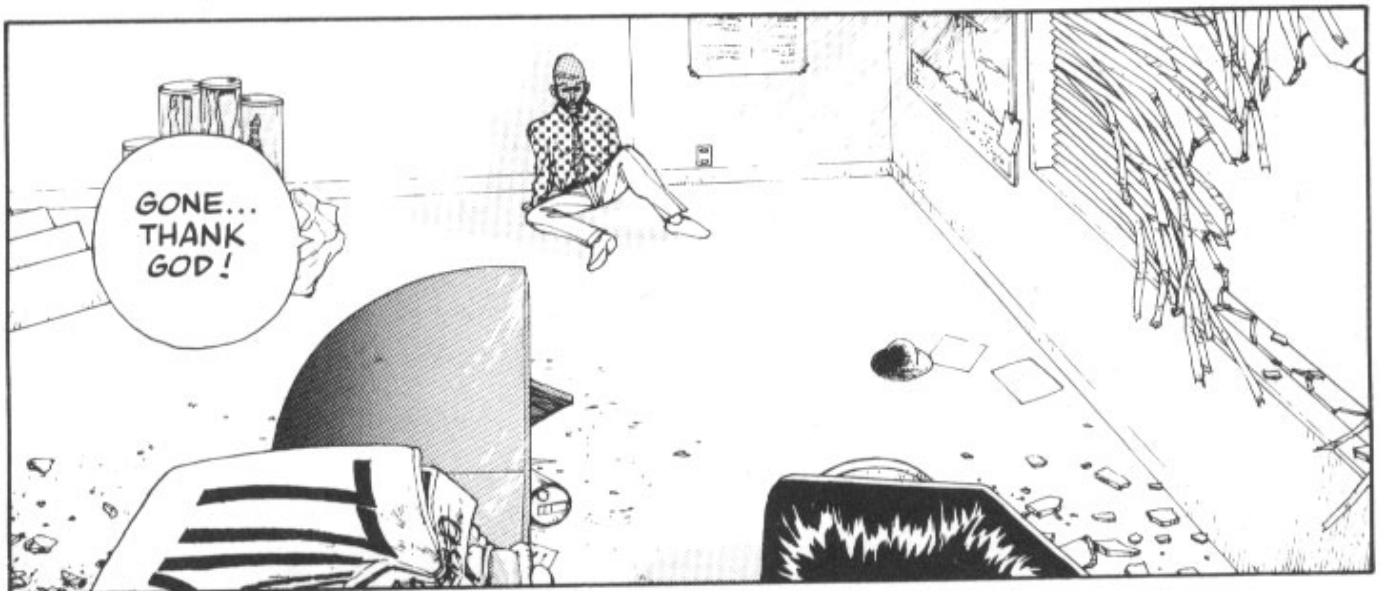
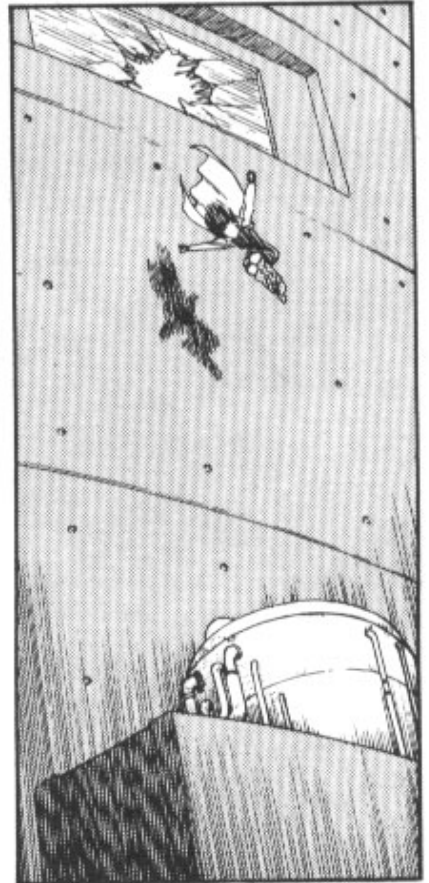
TOMORROW,
ALITA...?

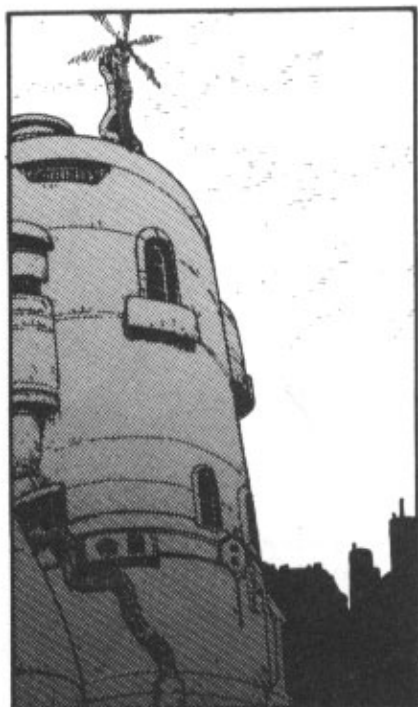


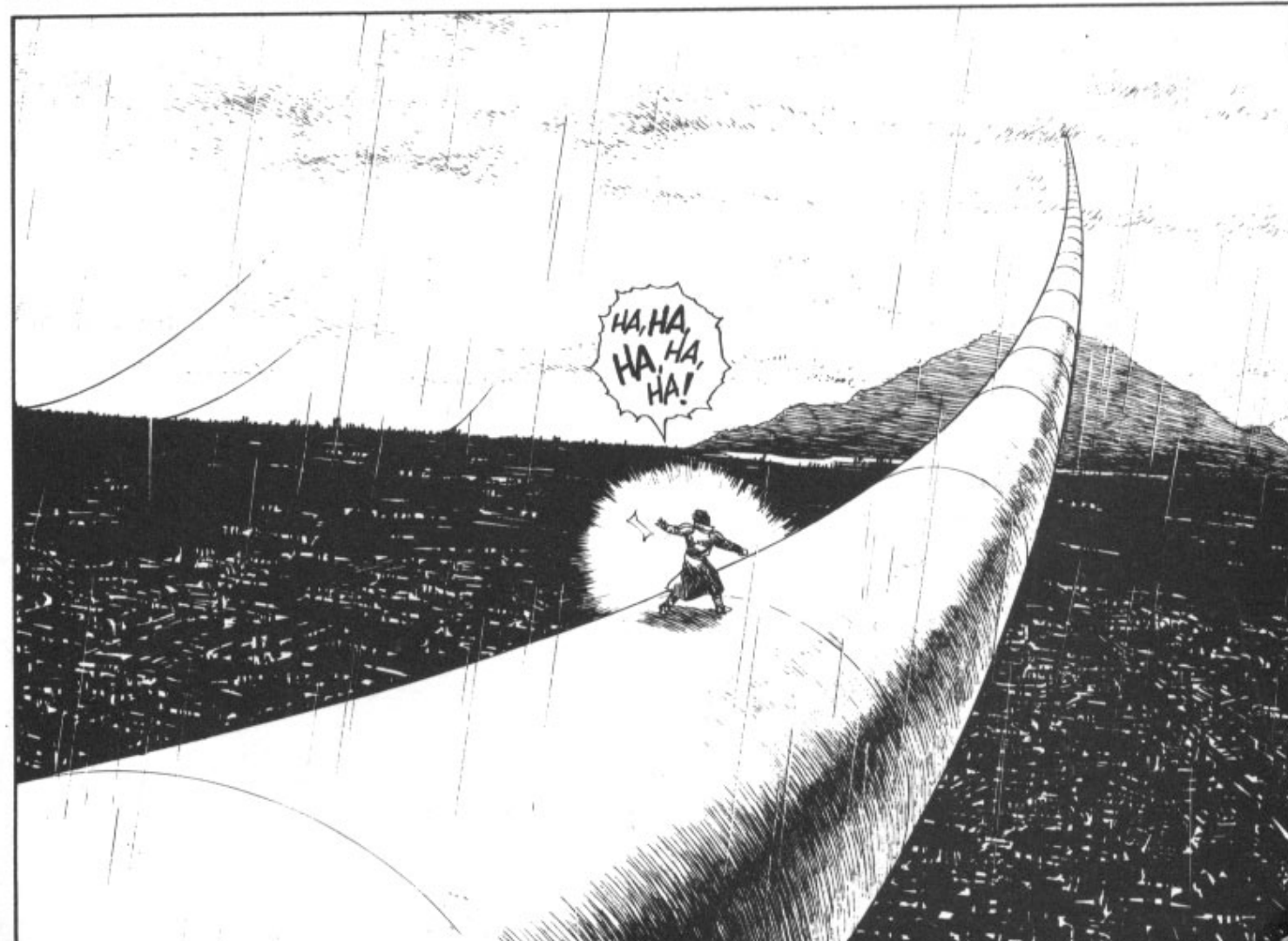
TOMORROW
IS
USELESS--



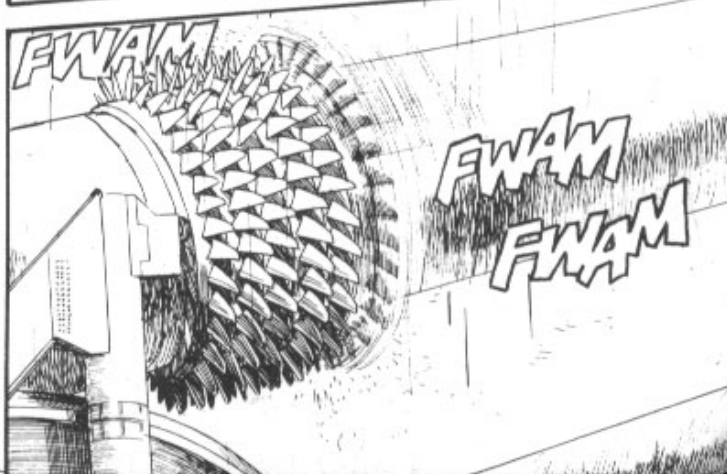
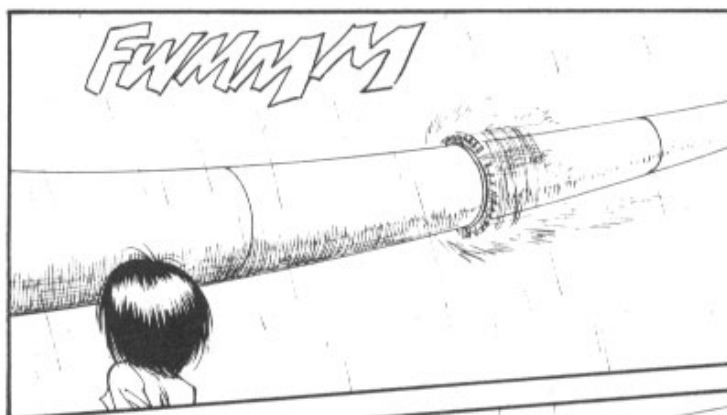
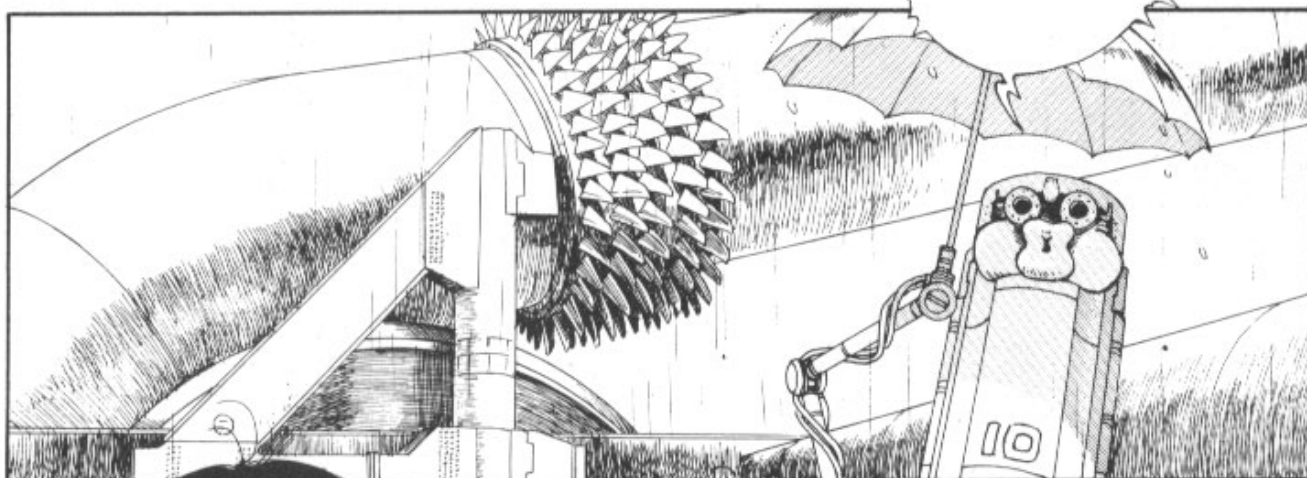
--TO A
DEAD MAN!

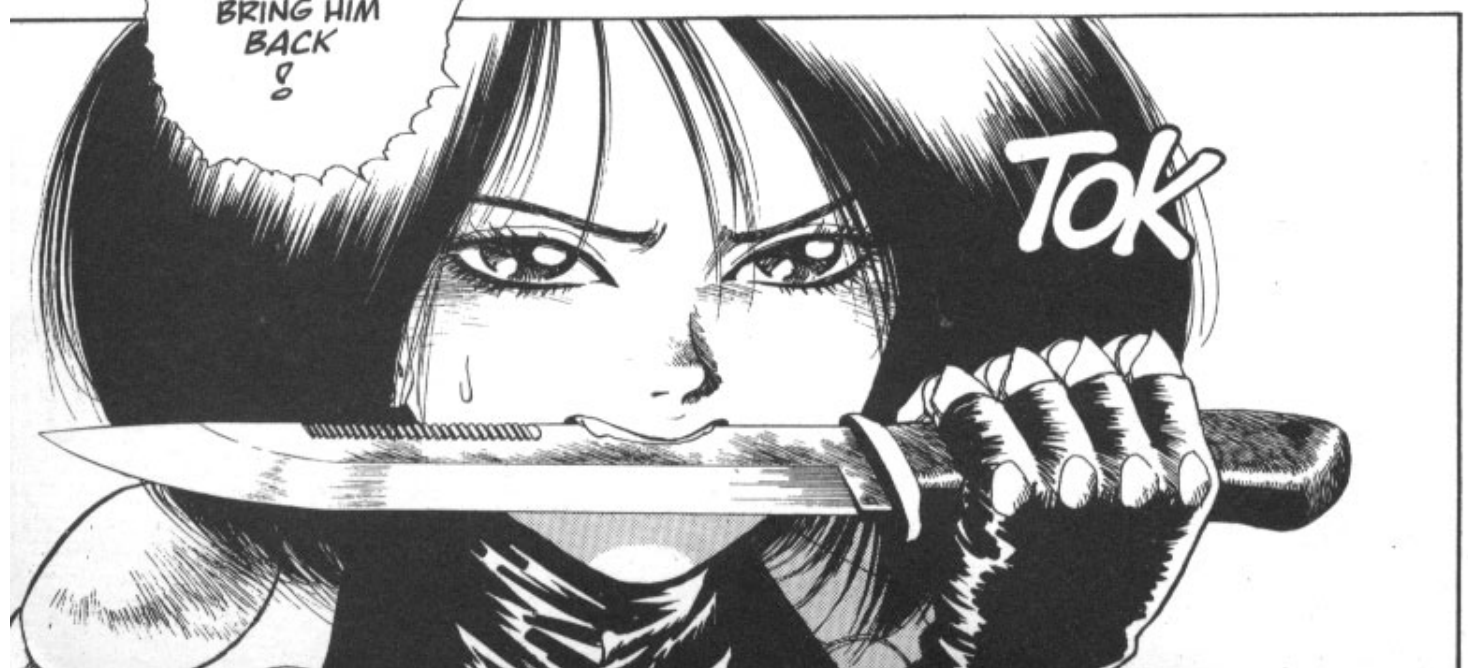


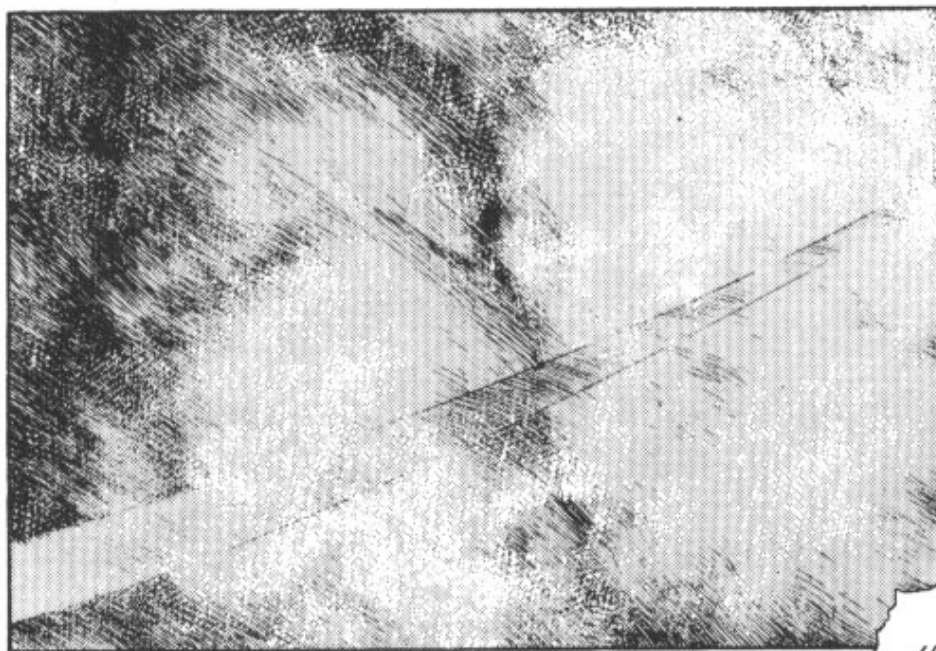






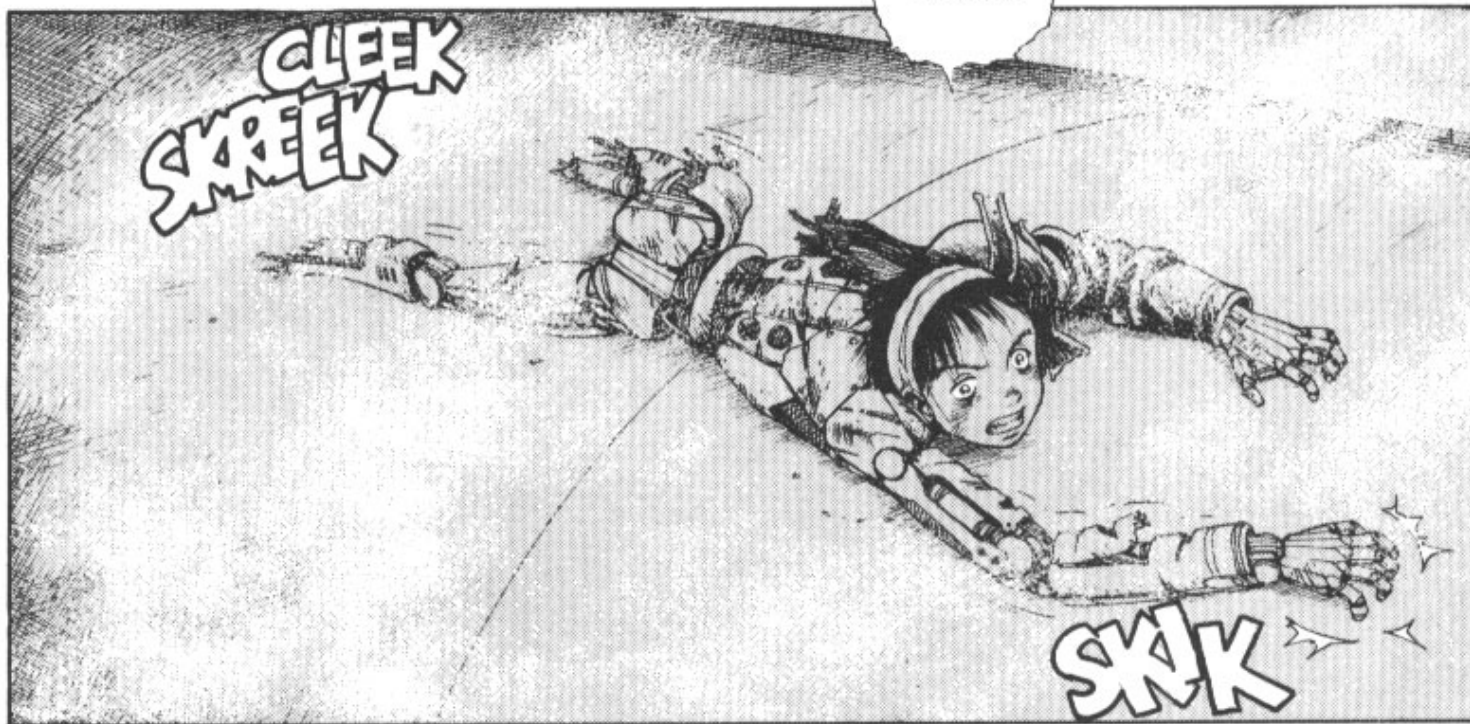






SKIK

UNGH...



CLEEK
SKREEK

SKIK



SAAAAAAA





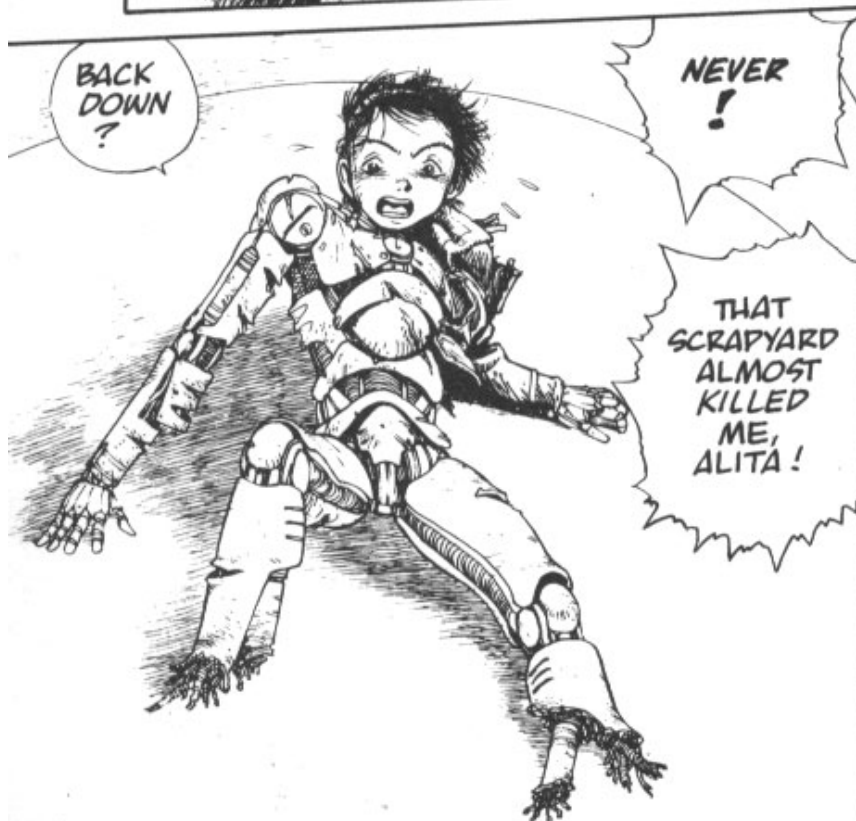
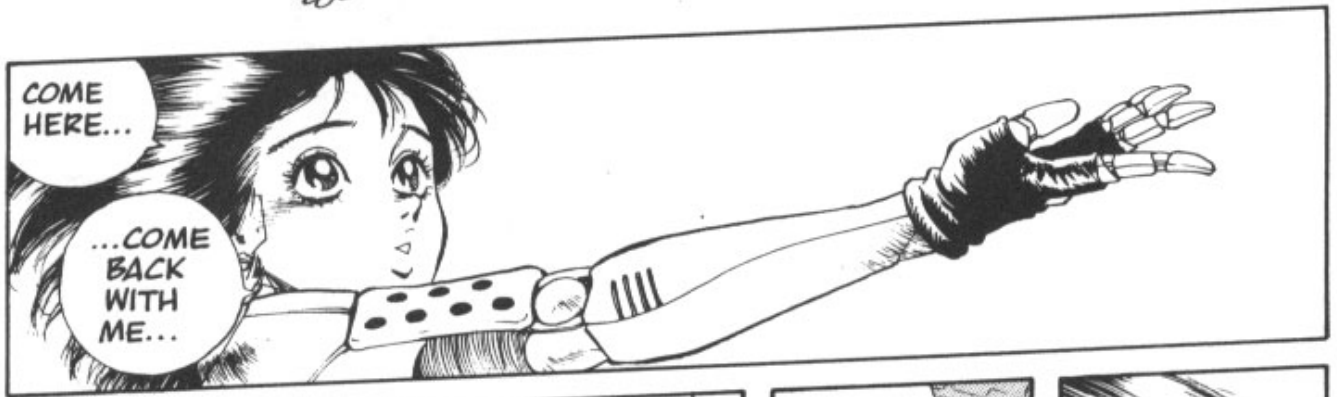
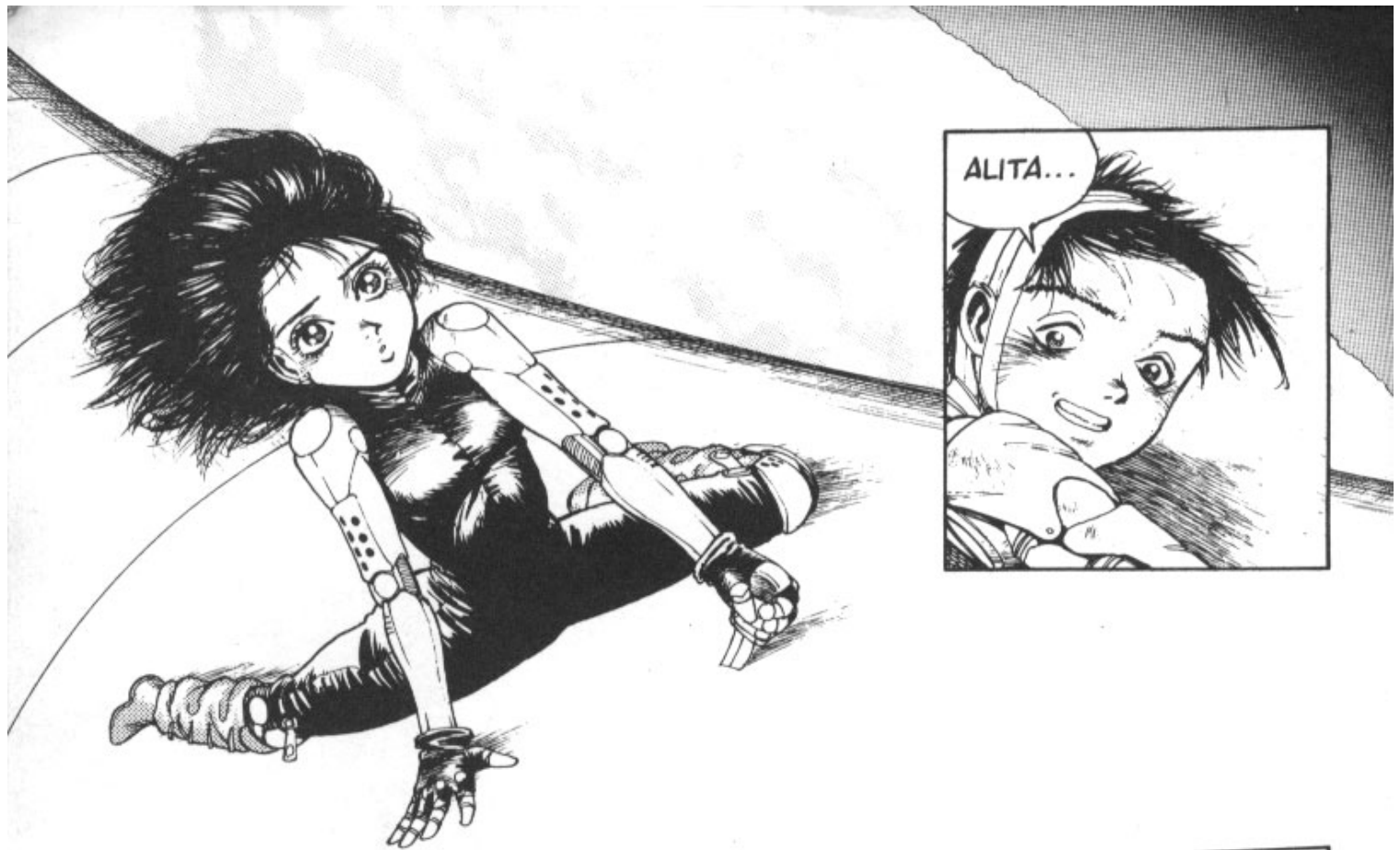
TIPHARES...

...I'M
HERE...
AT
LAST...

I'M YOUR
GREATEST
LOVER,
TIPHARES!
FOR YOU,
I LOST
EVERYTHING
!

HA, HA, HA...
BUT NOTHING
CAN MATCH
YOUR MAJESTY--
CAN IT ?

HUGO
!





ON THE
WAY UP,
IT FINALLY
HIT ME,
ALITA...

...AND
NOW, AT
LAST, I
SEE...

NO,
HUGO...

I
WON'T
LET
YOU
DO
THIS
!



...I WASN'T
MEANT FOR
THIS WORLD,
WAS I?



IT HAS NO
NEED OF ME--
NEVER HAS...



COWARD
!

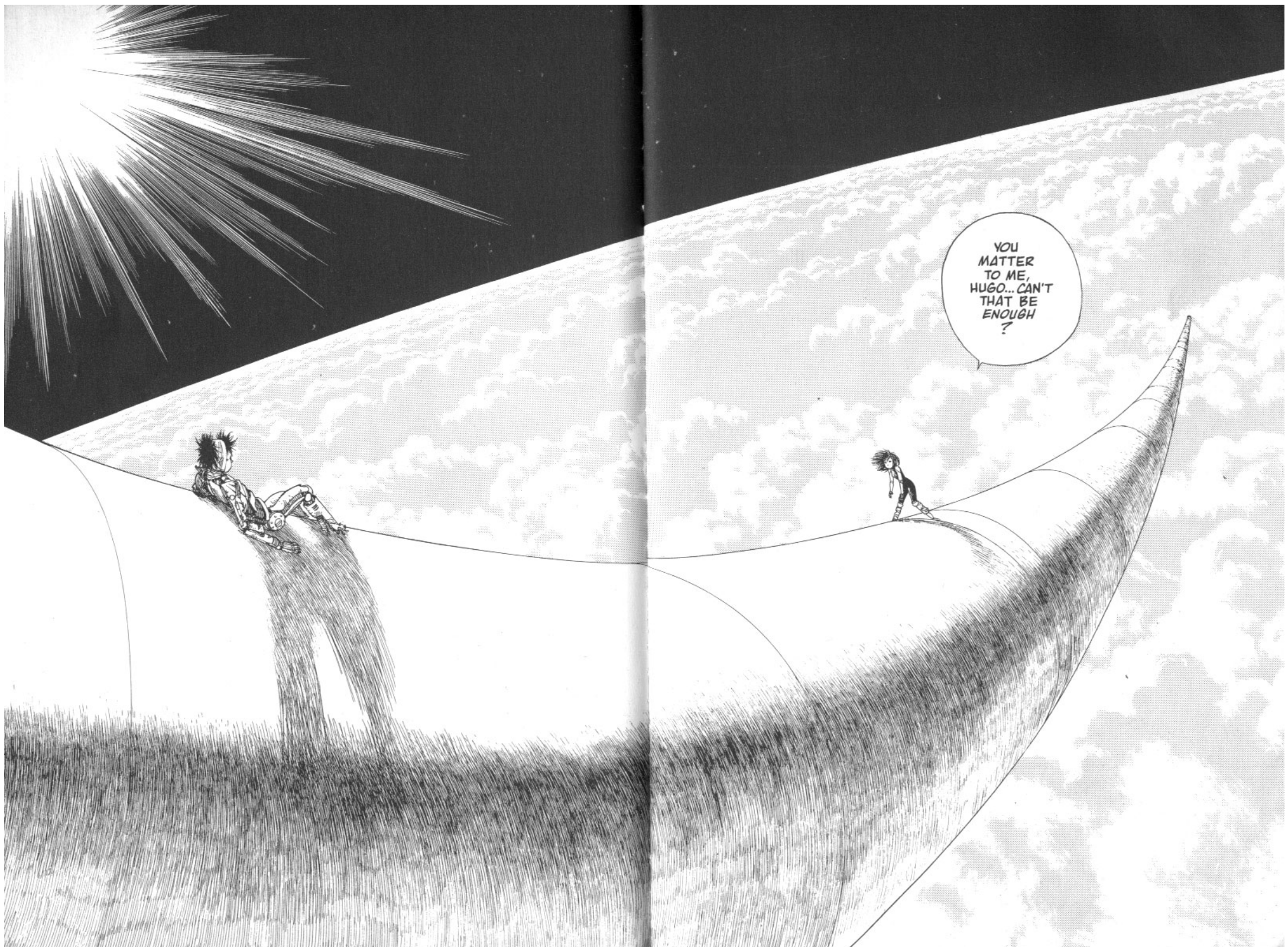


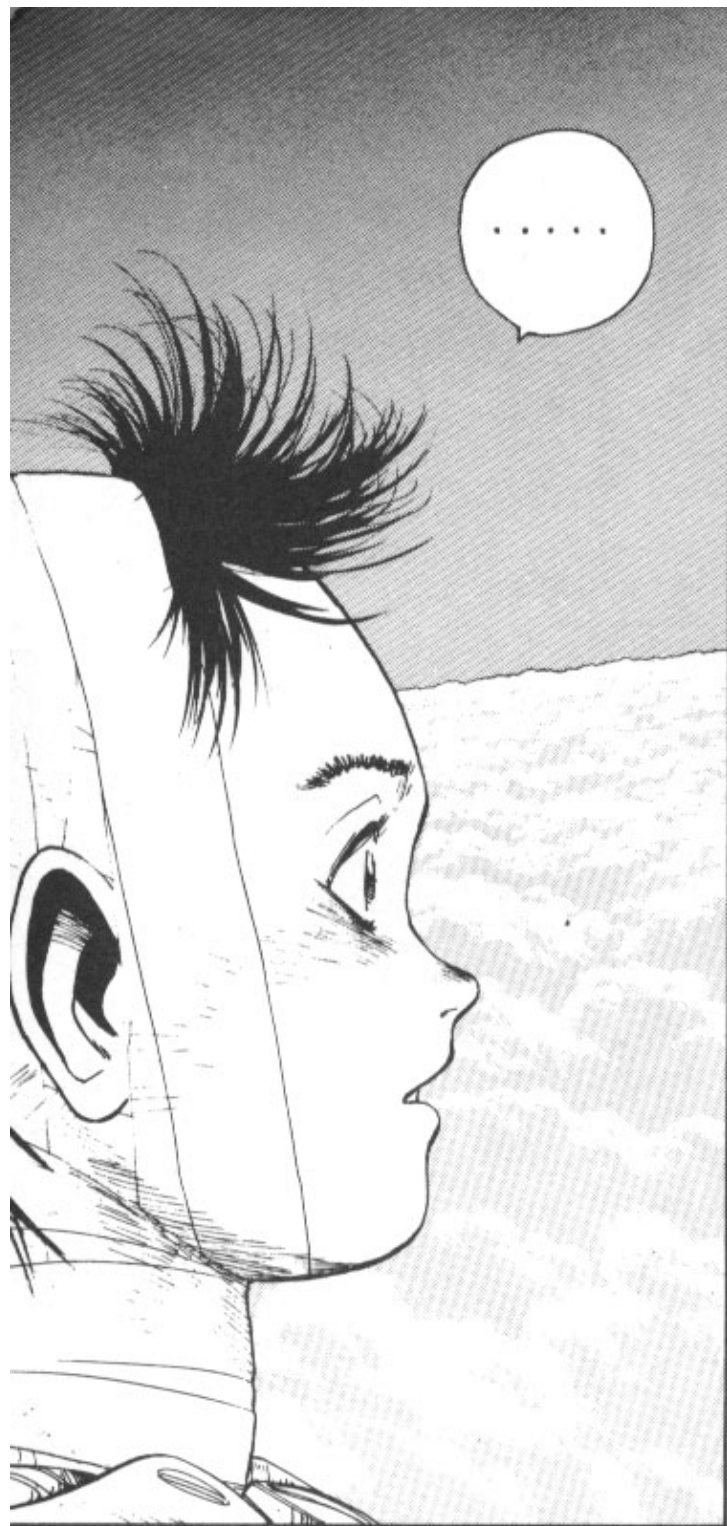
THE
SCRAPYARD
AND TIPHARES
AREN'T
THE ONLY
WORLD!

DON'T
BE FOOLED
BY THEIR
LIES,
HUGO!



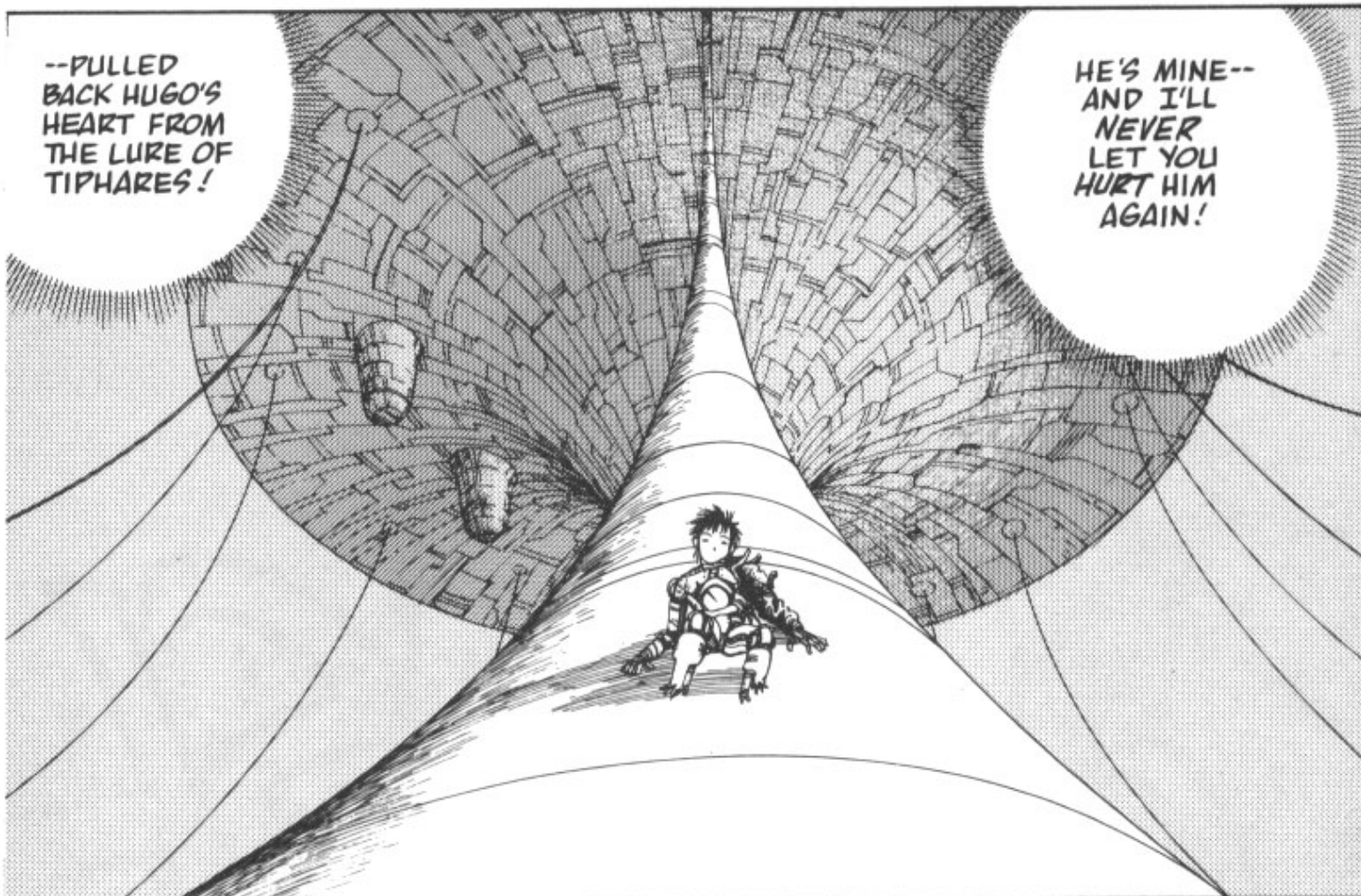
....!





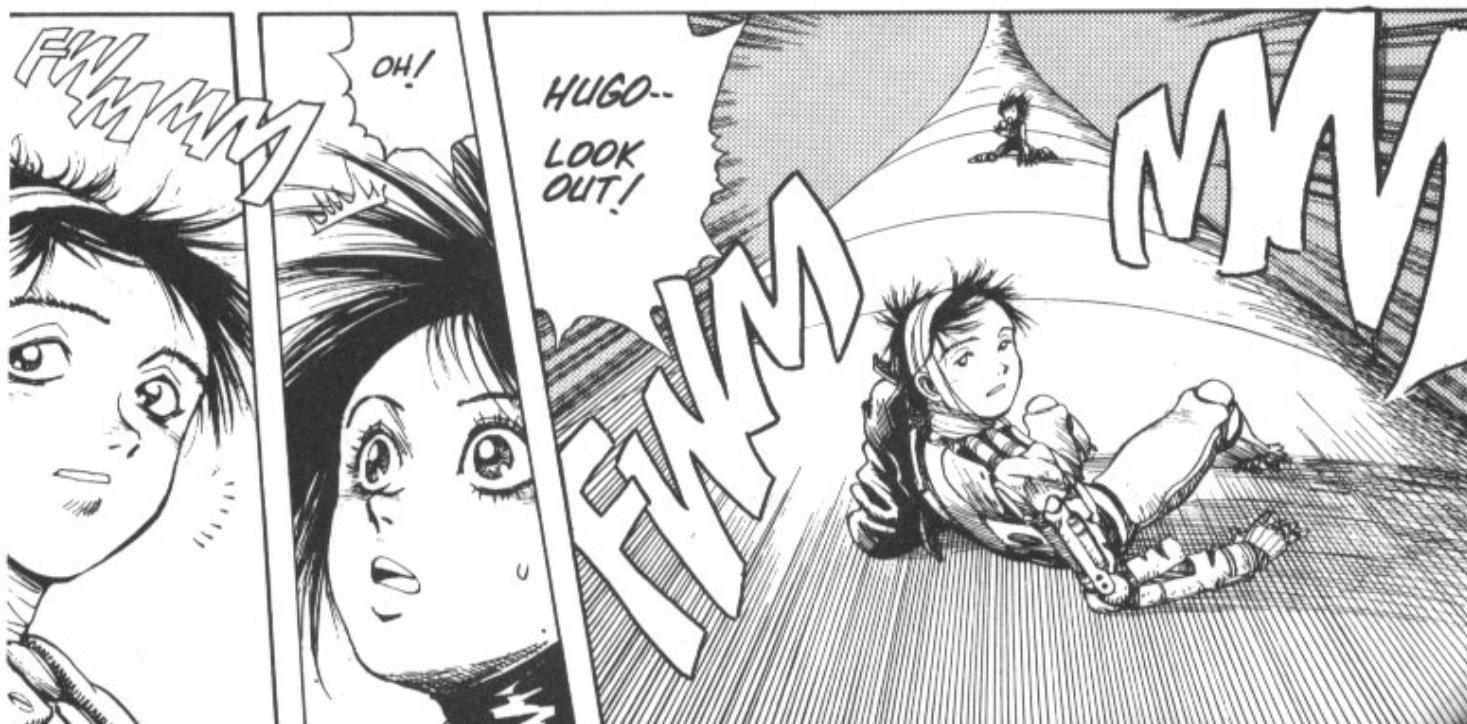


I'VE
DONE
IT--



--PULLED
BACK HUGO'S
HEART FROM
THE LURE OF
TIPHARES!

HE'S MINE--
AND I'LL
NEVER
LET YOU
HURT HIM
AGAIN!



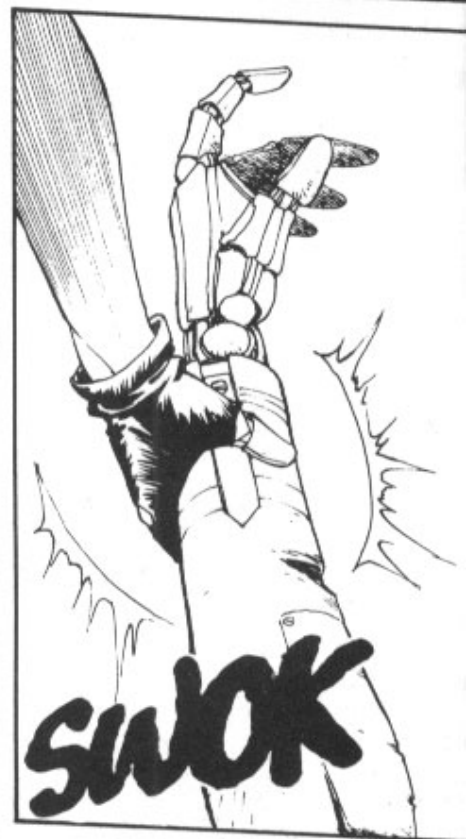
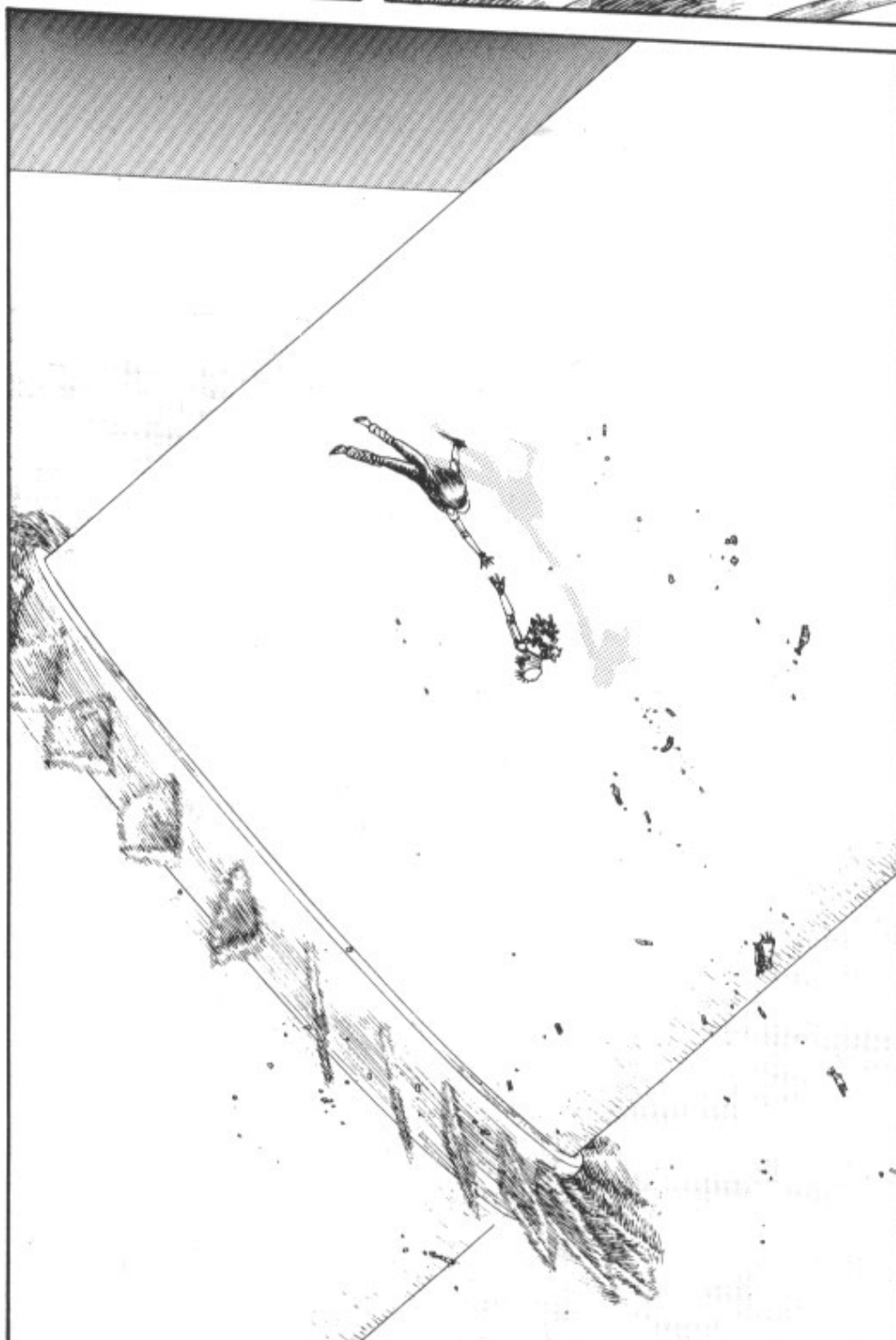
FWMM

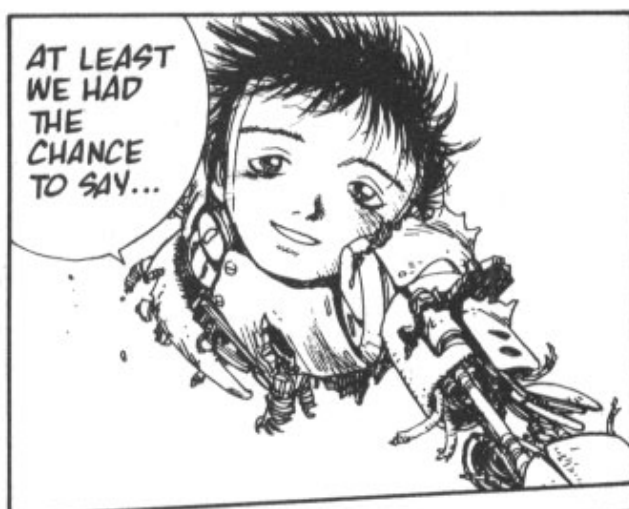
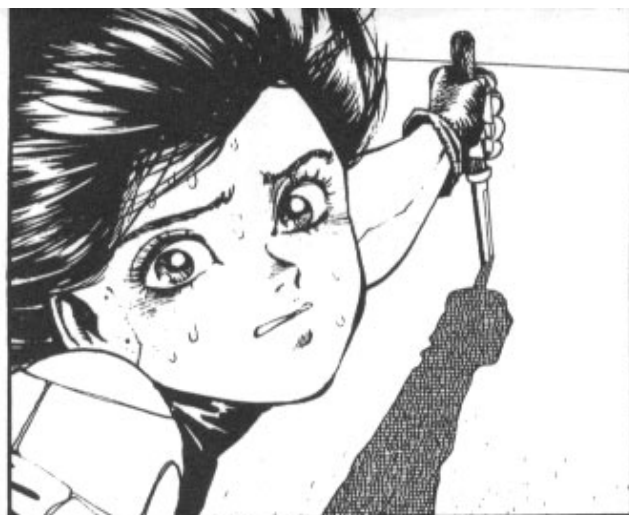
OH!

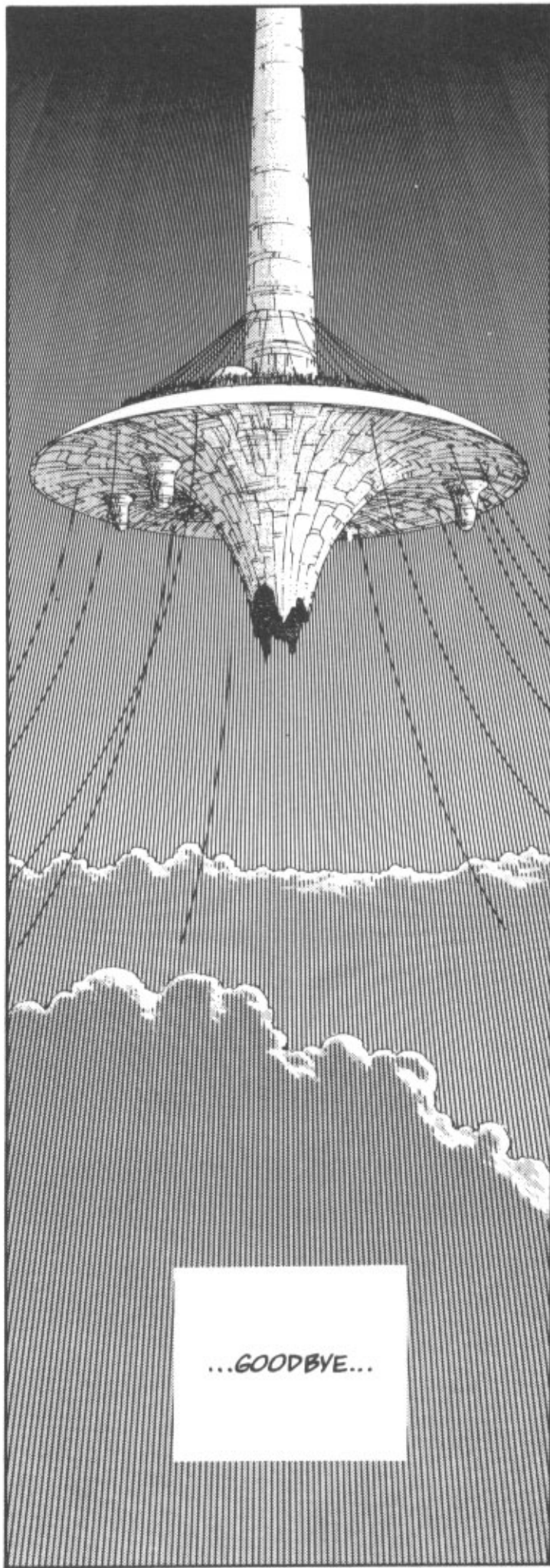
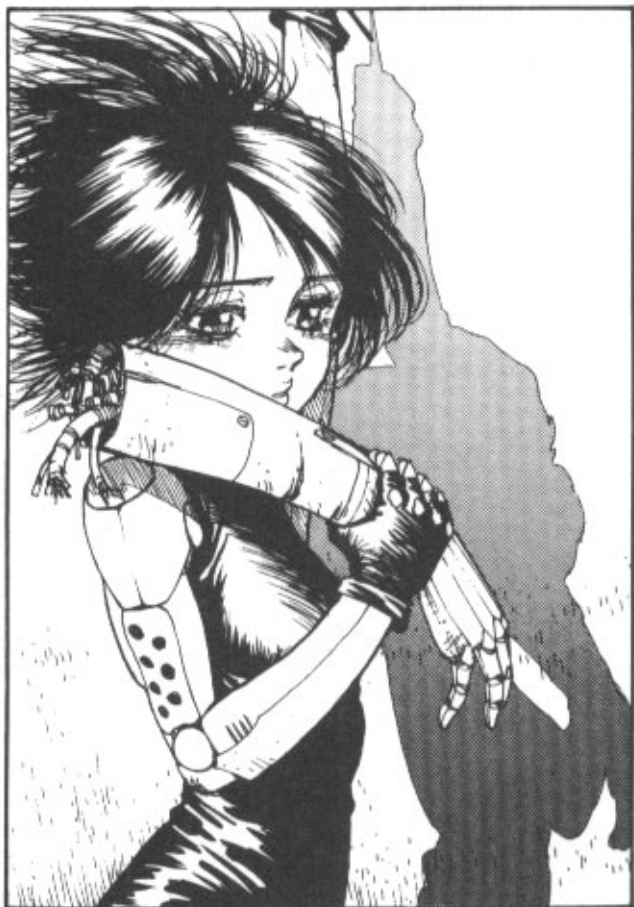
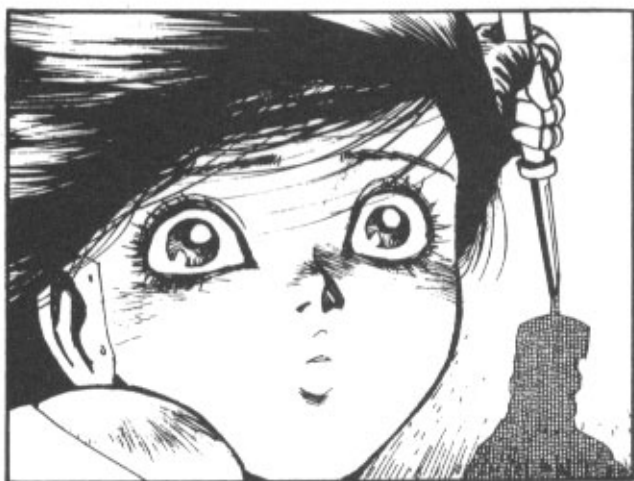
HUGO--
LOOK
OUT!

MM









END

